

Library

RECREATION

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RECREATION

in August 1947

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Multiple Use

THE WORDS "multiple use" belong very much to recreation, and that right now.

Schooling is associated rightly pretty much with school and college buildings, some private, some public, but still schools.

The work of school boards centers pretty much about what happens in a definite school building, even though it be recognized that education in the large sense takes in all of life.

Recreation, however, takes place in many different buildings and institutions. It belongs first of all to the home. It belongs to the church. The schools must teach recreation skills. The parks are all recreation, are for man's use in his free time. All centers of labor are to a degree centers for industrial recreation. Man ought to live while he works, and before and after. Recreation belongs very much to the municipal recreation systems that maintain municipal recreation centers, playgrounds, swimming pools, bathing beaches, ball fields, summer camps, that help to give leadership to the home, the church, to all kinds of groups.

All recreation, however, cannot be bottled up in the school, in the park, in the church, in the American Legion Post, in the County Farm Bureau, the Grange, or in any other one place.

Recreation depends for its all pervasive quality in American life upon the "multiple use" of much property, the "multiple use" of home, church, school, forests. Every possible effective agency must be sought to use its facilities for the recreation of the people.

Recreation cannot wisely be left entirely to the schools, entirely to the parks. A municipal recreation board must make use of school, park and other special property. A state recreation board, wherever placed, wisely works closely with state school authorities, state park authorities, state college of agriculture extension services.

Recreation, of course, is an outstanding separate division of life, like religion, education, labor—yet it is related to all other divisions, serves all other divisions and is served by them.

You do not make recreation bigger, you do not render a greater service through recreation by pulling it out of the natural relations of life and trying to pile it all up in one place.

A profession that loses its own life in service to humanity will find itself and will find most growth.

A recreation profession that would attempt to pull recreation out of school, park, church, club, home, and centralize recreation in one place would in the end not only lessen its own usefulness, but also lessen its own standing and prestige.

Recreation is too big to be bottled up in any one place.

Recreation by its very nature must accept the "multiple use" principle and build upon it.

Recreation is a very simple force, like steam or electricity, yet it has great power within it, is useful for its own sake in releasing joy and growth, and contributes heavily to all other divisions of life.

HOWARD BRAUCHER



Recreation: The Public's Responsibility to the Public

By ALBERT WEST
Board of Recreation
Boston, Mass.

NEARLY EVERY COMMUNITY in America has natural recreational resources which have remained unutilized or rarely used and which can be developed into vital areas in which "to walk abroad and recreate yourselves." Mountainous or hilly areas, lakes, ponds, rivers and stretches of woodland, to name but a few, all can be made to fill a community need at little or no cost, depending upon the volunteers available.

The old formula of a ball field and a boys' or girls' club as being the *sine qua non* in recreation is being proven a fallacy by the increase of youthful offenders and we must widen our horizon and balance the recreational diet to meet the demands and challenge of modern youth.

Adventure in play has become a prime necessity and I became fully conscious of the need by a letter addressed to me as Coordinator of Recreation for the City of Boston, by a 15-year-old boy who wrote:

"It seems that in Boston the only ones that get anything done for them are the boys that are good in sports or the ones that get into trouble of one kind or another. If the teen-agers try to lead a good life their life is pretty dead and excitement seldom enters into it."

This letter made a profound impression upon me and I began to explore the possibilities of supplying opportunities for "excitement" or the better word, adventure, for the youngsters. I found that with very little money we could make infinitely wider use of the Blue Hills nearby and the lovely Charles River. Called Quineboquin by the Algonquins, which means circular, "that fairest reach... the Charles" as Captain John Smith (of Jamestown Colony fame) wrote of it, has been in its quiet majesty a part of this community for centuries and has seen its banks change from quaint Indian villages to Puritan towns and thence into a thriving metropolis.

At its basin there is a great stretch of deep water where Recreation Commissioner Joseph Lee taught many thousand youngsters how to sail in boats they built themselves from his design. This program has become a significant part of Boston's recreation and is now operated by Community Recreation Service of Boston, without the aid of public funds, but with the cooperation of the Metropolitan District Commission, a state supported and vital public agency.

The Charles River is over one hundred miles in length and much of it is in country as wild as it used to be when the Brook Farm was on its banks more than 100 years ago. Writing about the river country on April 28, 1841, shortly after his arrival, Nathaniel Hawthorne said: "If the middle of the day prove warm and pleasant, I promise myself to take a walk—I have taken one walk and I could not believe that there is such seclusion at so short a distance from a great city. Many spots seem hardly to have been visited for ages—not since John Eliot preached to the Indians here. If we were to travel a thousand miles we could not escape the world more completely than we can here."

Hawthorne's words fit the scene today quite as well. The reason for this is found in the topography of the place. The river bank is high for several thousand yards and the valleys behind it are inundated during the high water in the early spring, with the result that it has become a natural bird and small animal sanctuary.

But with the Brook Farm only a memory, I found that even fewer people were taking the walk so interestingly described by Hawthorne.

Beginnings

There was no public money available but with a small donation I hired an abandoned boat house and bought and borrowed a couple of canoes. The



"All aboard!"

late Dr. Thomas Barbour of Harvard, who was Director of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, gave me some camping equipment and I looked around for some volunteers to start a camping-canoeing project to supply adventure to city-pent adolescents like the one the poet Keats wrote about:

"The imagination of a boy is health and the mature imagination of a man is healthy; but there is a space of life between, in which the soul is a ferment, the character undecided, the way of life uncertain, and the ambition thick-sighted."

The boat house, which we named the Quineboquin Camping Club, was within easy reach of all Boston boys whose natural desire to go camping was never satisfied because of their inability to finance trips into the woods. Trips are carefully planned and supervised up or down the river which extends some 60 miles beyond the boat house. Ideal camping country abounds in the river country, the best of which is the Rocky Narrows Reservation maintained by the Trustees of Public Reservations, another volunteer group whose function it has been to reclaim forest areas for the use and enjoyment of the people of Massachusetts.

The setting of a long winding river with birds new and strange to city youth is ideal, and the spectacle of wild grapevines hanging from the top-most branches of tall oaks on the river's edge and dropping into the water lends a tropical setting which adds to the illusion of being in some place remote and exciting with, perhaps, lurking Indians and imaginary dangers everywhere.

The Boston Police Department cooperates by maintaining a police patrol motor launch at the

boat house and by assigning two recreation trained police officers whose enthusiasm and help have been invaluable in carrying on the program. A father of one of the boys is the volunteer handy man about the place and he has saved us many dollars by his ever willing assistance. Our best man gave up a paid position in a boys' club to come and work twice as hard for nothing because he saw greater possibilities in this new approach.

Other Activities

In the winter months, skating parties, snowshoeing, and ice fishing are the order of the day and the fellowship of our outdoor and indoor fireplaces is no small part of the year-round enriching and memorable experiences enjoyed by the boys of the Quineboquin Camping Club.

This, or better projects for youth, can be initiated by private citizens, with a public zeal, and paid for by private funds raised by a variety of methods, as well as by public officials with public money. There are only a few guide posts to follow and a few pitfalls to avoid. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." There will have to be a keen desire to want to provide an effective antidote for the ever increasing restlessness of youth. Thought first, then action. "The great man is he who does not lose his child's heart," was said by Confucius nearly 2500 years ago and it still goes in working with youth. Unless you really know and appreciate their point of view you'll be wasting their time and your own. Finding out their point of view will be the reward for your efforts on their behalf because it will bring back to you your own "child's heart" in the event that you may have lost it.

Of course if you do not have a river like our Charles, you cannot plan a camping-canoeing project. But, as I have suggested, every community has some natural recreational resources which can be developed. Perhaps you can best help by supplementing the work of some already existing group whose lack of funds is responsible for its lack of action. What is wanted is a workable youth project and your combined efforts may result in getting what is needed. Investigate, explore, inquire. Take nothing for granted, nor anybody's word for anything, if you are going to secure the money or effort necessary for success.

Special Services in the Veterans Administration

By F. R. KERR

Assistant Administrator for Special Services
Veterans Administration

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE in the operation of the Special Services program in Veterans Administration is to raise the morale of patients in the hospitals by furnishing those things which can make their stay more pleasant and thus facilitate their recovery.

If one man in each hospital had to do all the jobs which are performed under the name of Special Services he would be a recreation technician, a theatrical entertainment director, a musician, a librarian, an athletic coach, a minister (an amalgamation of Jewish, Catholic and Protestant), a merchant, a newspaperman, a movie projectionist, radio announcer, playground director, circus barker, diplomat, and general factotum.

Since no one man has been found to fill all those jobs, in the average VA hospital it has been found necessary to secure specialists in fields for which the Office of Special Services is responsible: Athletic, Canteen, Chaplaincy, Library, Recreation and Entertainment Services.

For each job, careful efforts have been made to choose men and women of the highest professional qualifications in the recreation, religious, merchandising and welfare fields.

It was recently emphasized by General Omar N. Bradley that sick and wounded veterans have certain "human needs" to be cared for—over and above the minimum physical needs. Special Services assists in providing those human needs.

The aim of Special Services is two-fold: to assist in giving the patient a will to get well, and, at the same time, to keep his interest alive in the normal activities of life so that he may be better prepared to take his place in normal living when he is released from the hospital.

That latter point is an important one to remember, for it is fundamental in our thinking and planning that our efforts be constantly aimed at returning the veteran to his community, to assist him in taking his place in that community as a valuable citizen.

We have to recognize, also, that some of our veteran patients will not soon return to their communities; they will remain for years—many of them for their entire lives—in our hospitals. And while patients are being released daily, other patients are coming in to take their places.

To give proper care to the veteran patient, it was obvious that we must look at him as an individual, not as a number or as a "case." True, there are overall general needs that all patients in our hospitals will have in common. But in addition to these general needs, there are the particular needs of sick men and women who for twenty-four hours a day tend to have their thoughts centered on themselves, their illnesses, their fears. And these fears, as any of us who have been ill can testify, are magnified often times immeasurably out of all proportion to their actual importance because we are ill.

To care for this individual—this man or woman—the Veterans Administration has established, in addition to its Medical Service, such services as Finance, Vocational Rehabilitation and Education, Claims, Solicitor, Insurance, Construction and Supply, Legislation, Contact, and Special Services.

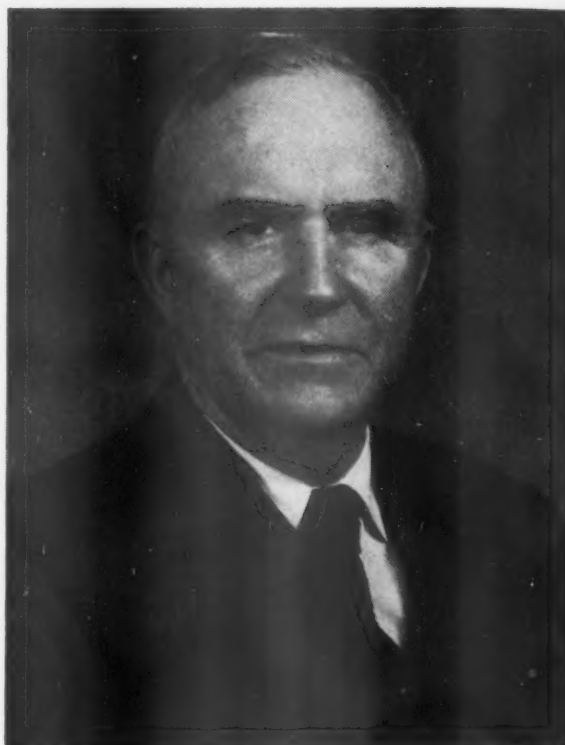
Many of these services are not limited to the veterans in our hospitals; they are established in the interests of all veterans. The Medical Service and Special Services, however, have as our responsibility the veterans with a disability, the men and women who have been crippled or broken in mind or body or spirit.

The connection, the careful coordination between the Medical Service and Special Services, stems from this basic responsibility for the care of the hospitalized veteran. Since the primary purpose of all veteran patients' care must be pointed toward ultimate healing, General Bradley has directed that our efforts in Special Services be closely coordinated with the Medical Service and that nothing we do be permitted to interfere in any way with the accomplishment of the primary mission.

In our Library Service alone we have one of the greatest tasks ever to face a librarian. The director of this far-flung library system is at the head of an organization servicing potentially more than 200 libraries all the way from Togus, Maine, to American Lake, Washington, and from Fargo, North Dakota, to Miami Beach, Florida. The Director of the Library Service is responsible for providing library facilities for both patients and staff. He must have available the latest publications in medical literature and scientific development—both those published in this country and abroad—in the rapidly advancing field of medicine for ready access by our “medical service second to none.” At the same time, he must provide a depository of reading material for a patient group whose tastes are the height of catholicity, running all the way from “L’il Abner” to differential calculus.

The Athletic Service was created to plan and carry forward programs in the field of sports. Actually the idea of “hospital athletics” may sound incongruous to you at first thought. Indeed, for obvious reasons, the programs of athletics as we know them in our high schools and colleges have, in general, been modified for use at our hospitals. But because the muscular and nervous systems of patients must be kept alert and active, we are carrying on a well-rounded program of athletic activities adapted to their needs, interests, physical limitations, and levels of skill. And, although heavy muscular activity, mass participation, and highly competitive sports play only a small role in this specialized athletic program, we like to think that the term is no misnomer; we know that psychologically the idea of using the term “athletics” is good, for it is another of our endeavors to keep the attention of the veteran patients focussed on the normal in their lives as much as possible.

But do not for a moment think that our athletic program is lacking in eminently skillful athletes. As you know, paraplegic patients are those with paralysis from the waist down. Yet, just recently several bowling teams composed entirely of paraplegic patients in wheelchairs, at several VA paraplegic centers, competed in a National Ten-pin Bowling Team Championship, conducted by telegraph. These bowlers ask no “handicap”—in fact the handicap they now have is all but forgotten as they become absorbed in the thrill of getting the strikes and spares which may mean victory for their team. While awards were made to the winning teams and to the three highest scorers, actually all those who competed were winners. Because, far more important than bowling proficiency, they have demonstrated their ability to defeat the



Francis R. Kerr

morale-destroying consciousness of handicap, and they also have demonstrated powers of physical readjustment which will go far toward helping them meet the competition of every day life in the outside world!

Sports apparatus—and even the rules—are adjusted to suit the condition of patients. This is termed “adapted” athletic activity. Sideboards are put up on ping-pong tables so that patients playing from wheelchairs will not knock the balls off the table. A paraplegic patient who wanted to work out on the parallel bar had a special harness made to support his legs. Archery bows were whittled down for tuberculous patients so that they do not require so much pulling power to release the arrow. Basketball rules were changed so that players in wheelchairs were not obliged to dribble the ball. In softball, it is illegal to slide into bases; that means fewer injuries. There have been no major injuries in the whole athletic program for hospitalized veterans. Safety is a watchword. Minor injuries—such as a sprained ankle or bruised finger—number approximately one in 20,000 participations. The possibility of many injuries is precluded, of course, at the outset when patients must receive clearance from their doctors prior to participation in the adapted and safe Special Services’ athletic program.

In the endeavor to give attention to our patients as individuals, careful thought has been given to their spiritual needs. The Chaplaincy Service has been established in which recognition is given to the three major faiths, Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish. A quota is maintained to insure equitable representation for all and so that every patient may follow his religious inclination. The Chaplaincy Service is organized to provide one full-time chaplain for approximately every 500 patients, with part-time chaplains as needed. The major emphasis in this highly important service is placed on bedside ministry. In this personalized and individualized service, the chaplain has the opportunity to learn intimately the spiritual needs of the patient and to bring him courage and the solace of the church.

Our Canteen Service provides the patient with those articles of use and convenience which, because of his hospitalization, he is unable to procure otherwise. When the patient is ambulatory, he has the opportunity of "going to the store," of going himself to the canteen to make his own purchases. When he is bedfast, a portable canteen, or ward cart, is brought to his bedside on a regular schedule. Careful attention is given to the choice of items made available in the canteens as well as to the display of the merchandise in an attractive manner. The emphasis, as indicated before, is on surrounding the patients with as much "normalcy" as possible. Because the Canteen Service is a business organization, it is strictly controlled by adequate audits and inspections. Prices are kept low, and any profits that accrue revert to the Federal Treasury.

Recreation and Entertainment Service is broken down into various divisions — movie, recreation, entertainment, and music. First-run motion pictures are shown three times a week in hospital theaters. For those patients unable to get up from bed and go to the auditoriums, projectors and screens are brought into the wards and movies are shown on 16 mm. film.

Stage entertainment is encouraged locally in hospitals by recreation aides and other trained personnel. Such shows by and for the patients are augmented by professional shows brought in by the USO, the American Theater Wing, and local community amateur and semi-professional groups.

Many hospitals have centralized public address systems, and a few have more complete three-channel radio units, with a broadcasting studio for hospital "wardcasts." Patient-produced radio shows, including the best of the talent available in

the hospital and community, present regular programs which are heard by bedfast patients, many of whom are equipped with pillow headphones.

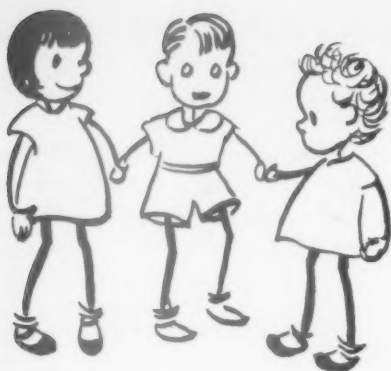
Interwoven with this myriad of entertainment and also a program in itself is the music activity. Glee clubs, choirs, bands, orchestras, quartets, and concerts are among featured results already obtained.

Dances, parties, and other special social events are arranged, usually with the wholehearted assistance of volunteer groups living in cities near VA hospitals. Volunteers contribute their assistance through committees called VA Voluntary Service Committees, organized at local, regional, and national levels. Members of the national committee are: American Legion and Auxiliary, American National Red Cross, Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary, United Service Organizations, Inc., American Women's Voluntary Services, Inc., American Veterans of World War II, Association of Junior Leagues of America, Inc., B'nai B'rith and the Women's Supreme Council of B'nai B'rith, Catholic War Veterans, Jewish War Veterans of the United States and Auxiliary, Masonic Service Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Inc., National Society of Service Star Legion, Women's Overseas Service League, Marine Corps League, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States.

Patients produce their own newspapers in VA hospitals under the sponsorship of Special Services. Journalism is flourishing in the wards. Bedfast patients are furnished with portable typewriters. Each ward has its correspondent. Reading a hospital newspaper is like looking into the wards, getting a picture of what the patients are saying to each other and what they think of their treatment in veterans' hospitals in this year of 1947.

Reading these newspapers, it is obvious that there is a new spirit in veterans' hospitals. It's a brighter spirit, and Special Services brings to patients many of those things which help to make hospital life agreeable.

At a recent meeting in Washington, Horace M. Albright of New York City was elected chairman of the board of directors of the American Planning and Civic Association, and Major General Ulysses S. Grant III of Washington was elected president of the organization. Major General Grant is chairman of the National Capitol Park and Planning Commission.



Playground Patter

By PEARL H. WELCH

Play Director
Bixby Park Playground
Long Beach, California

"WE SAW A DEAD CAT in a vacant lot—a real live dead cat!" is a profound statement made by one of the children on my playground. It has been duly recorded in the little notebook I keep handy for jotting down the funny, interesting, clever and sometimes pathetic remarks of the youngsters who frequent Bixby Park Playground.

My hobby began at home where I would write down some of the things my own two children said, and I carried it over to the playground. It has provided me with many chuckles and a better understanding and appreciation of whimsical childhood. It's a stimulating hobby that many playground leaders would find satisfying and worthwhile.

"... His Sisters and His Cousins and His Aunts"

Relatives run around like squirrels on a treadmill in the minds of the children and create misconceptions that would shake the family tree. Aunts and uncles and sisters and brothers and mothers and fathers there are, to be sure, but who's who and how and why are problems for exploration by more experienced minds.

"All her brothers are boys."

"My brother is 200 and my mother is 18."

"When your mamma was a baby, then you was a mamma, wasn't you?"

"My daddy'll be six."

"Are you girls sisters?" "No, we're just twins."
"I want my son," said a four-year-old boy when hunting his brother.
"See that baby over there? It's our grandson," said a seven-year-old boy.

Time o'Clock

Time is an unfathomable as far as most children are concerned. The hands of the clock signify nothing to them and they measure the fleeting hours in lapses between activities or in terms they have heard adults use.

"When will it be after-awhile?"

"Is it five hours from a half-hour ago?"

"When is pretty soon going to come?"

"Is it time o'clock to go home?"

"Is it after half past church?"

"When o'clock is it going to be time?"

Errors in grammar are frequent, as is expected, but the replies to the correction of such errors are gems of naivete. One child related, "Me and a little boy played that once." The play director corrected him, "A little boy and I played that once." "Who won, you?"

Another child said, "I want a puzzle," and the play director repeated, "May I have a puzzle, please?" "I haven't any."

Strictly Webster!

Confusion reigns regarding the right usage of words. Sometimes the logic is right, but when it comes to figuring out nouns and verbs and adjectives, the English language plays funny tricks. Mrs. Malaprop would feel at home among some of these:

"We had a funner time."

"It's all bursting down." (A ball being deflated.)

"That's not a dime. It's ten cents."

"Is it an alley cat?" "No, it's a tom cat."

"I want a needle—a needle with a head on"

"May I have those things to make that with?"

"My dog's nickname is Napoleon. His real name is Nappie."

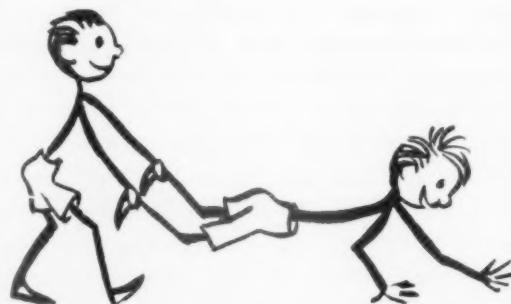
"Do you want to be a 'poemer' when you grow up?"

"Are you unbusy?"

"Stand down."

"He chased her into the ladies restaurant."

(Rest room.)



RECREATION

"See my new dog? He's a petrified (pedigreed) dog."

"Up our apricot tree the peaches are ripe."

"May I have a pin with a hole in it? A sewing pin?"

"He's a thoroughbred mongrel."

They Speak with Authority

Ever watch the children's expression when they make solemn and matter-of-fact statements that are miles from the truth, but which they believe to be absolutely beyond question? Their seriousness and sincerity are touching and the incongruity of the situation is humorous.

One little girl received a new purse for Christmas and was asked if it was imported. "Yes," she replied, "it came from Iowa."

"Is your teacher Mrs. or Miss?"

"She's a Mr. and Mrs. 'cause I saw her rings—an engagement and a wedding ring."

"Do you know why my hair is so soft and fluffy?" asked a five-year-old girl. "No, why?" "I had a manicure on it."

"Are you a cowboy?"

"I'm a war effort."

"That penny was made in 1926. That's when George Washington was made."

"I've got a tack in my shoe. Maybe it'll be a flat shoe."

"I beat a whole great big kid."

"Are you a Catholic or Protestant?"

"I'm a cowboy."

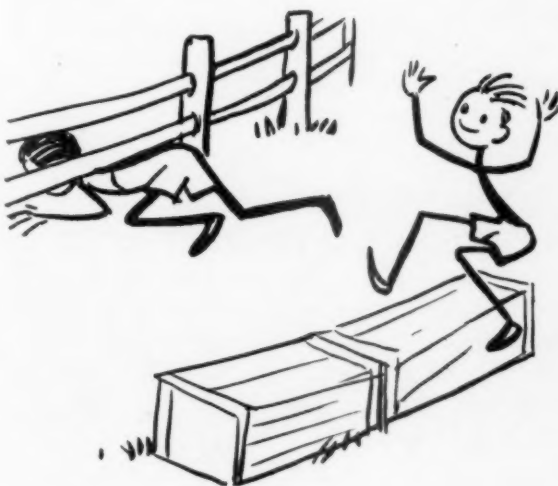
Oops!

The sentence is all there, but the arrangement sometimes seems a little strange. Perhaps it makes good sense to them.

"Do you see that little girl over there eating a carrot with a sunbonnet on?"

"I went upstairs just after they'd been watered on stilts."

"Have you seen the boy that sells ice cream with the blond hair?"



A Few Plums

These are several miscellaneous remarks made by the children, concerning everything from a philosophic bit about color to the status of National Recreation Association workers.

"Green has more shape than red."

"Orange is a kind of lonesome color when you look through it."

"What do they put the rainbows in the sprinkler for?"

"The sunshine's turned off."

After Bobby had removed the shell from his hardboiled egg, he remarked, "I must wash my hands—and my egg."

"You must have washed your face; it looks so much cleaner." "I rinsed it with my tongue."

On seeing a poster, complete with photographs, announcing classes to be led by three experts sent out by the National Recreation Association, a child asked, "Are they 'wanted'?"

The *Mobile Press Register*, Mobile, Alabama, prints a children's page which contains reports of playground activities written and illustrated by the children. Also appearing on the page are stories such as these two. The first is entitled, "A Prize-Winning Horse"; the second is "The Wee Little House." Both are by 9-year-olds.

We have a horse his name is Pat. He has three gaites. He is gold colored. He won first prize in 1944, second in 1945, and did not inter in the horse show in 1946.

Once there was a wee Little house. It was a little white house it had a little red roof and a little blue door. It stood in a wood, every day the wee little house said, "I want some one to live in me! I want some one to live in me!" and one day a little girl and boy came to live and a Little Rabbit came to live with them to. and that was the end.



Courtesy Veterans Administration

The Haven

By KEITH WALKER
Palo Alto, California

"YOU MEAN IT'S FREE? But lady, what's your game?"

Mental patients at the Veterans Administration hospital near Palo Alto, California, were astonished when smiling, friendly ladies in white aprons offered them piping hot coffee and doughnuts after the Haven first opened in August.

It was the first clubhouse manned by volunteer workers in the country to be set up at a veterans' mental hospital,* and it has been so successful, similar clubhouses are being started by American Women Volunteer Services at other mental hospitals all over the nation.

Not that the patients hadn't been given many opportunities for recreation. Under the new program started by General Bradley, special service units are providing athletic programs, stage shows, music for patients. Every week, 347 different activities are scheduled at the Palo Alto hospital alone.

But the Haven is a home for the patients, a place where they can go to relax in an easy chair, listen to the radio, take their friends and dance with the nurses or the girls who come from surrounding communities to volunteer their services.

When I first heard about the Haven, I frankly was skeptical. Why waste time and effort on a bunch of people who never would get any benefit

from it? Working around a mental institution was the last thing I'd ever want to do.

But, when I got there, I found that both the hospital employees and the volunteers at the Haven are intensely interested in their work and get a lot of satisfaction out of it. For they are helping someone hopeful, not hopeless. Many of these men can be cured and when one of them responds to the treatment and is released from the hospital to resume his place in a normal life, those who helped him do it feel proud. And men constantly are being discharged and the Haven is playing a big part in that rehabilitation.

Doctors don't claim that the Haven by itself can cure a man, but they are quick to proclaim that it can play a large part. Many of the men at the hospital were thrown into an unprotected environment in the service and many of them had horrifying combat experiences. They withdrew inside themselves, and now think of themselves too much. Such outside attractions as the Haven can draw them away from themselves to the world around them.

Paul

A good example is Paul. (That's not his real name, but it will do.) Paul is a handsome, young American. When he came to the hospital a few months ago, he was no more than a vegetative plant. He just sat with his head against his chest. He wouldn't talk. He wouldn't even swallow. He had to be spoon-fed.

With treatment, Paul improved. In time he was allowed to go about the hospital under the care of another patient soon to be discharged whose name was, say, John. John helped with the work at the Haven, and he brought Paul along.

Soon Paul was helping with the dishes and with the cleaning. But he absolutely refused to talk.

The nurse told him, "Come on, Paul, you can talk if you only want to." Which was true—he talked in his sleep and after his shock treatments. But, no go, Paul wouldn't talk.

Then "Mom" Stern, who is the director and personality of the Haven—without her, it wouldn't be what it is, but more about that later—Mom took Paul under her wing, as she has with other patients.

After the others left, Mom put her arm around Paul and tried, "Come on, Paul, talk for Mom." He smiled, but wouldn't talk.

*So far as the Veterans Administration knows.

Mom kept after him, trying to encourage him to take an interest in the world around him.

"Paul, I'm going to give you a sweater for your birthday," she baited. "Only I don't know what color to get. Do you want blue or yellow?"

Paul wouldn't talk.

"All right, if you won't tell me, you big bum, why don't you write it?" (She loves to call people "you big bum" in an affectionate way.)

She got a pencil and paper and set Paul in a chair at the kitchen table. Then she put a pencil in his hand.

"What color would you like the sweater to be, Paul? What color? Write it for Mom."

He lifted his hand. Mom waited. But he wouldn't even write.

Mom kept working with him. He improved. He seemed to enjoy coming over. He enjoyed eating. But he wouldn't talk.

One day Mom took me over to Paul.

"I've brought a friend of mine to meet you, Paul. Shake hands with him." Paul dropped his chin against his chest, that same old way. He was stubborn. Mom kept coaxing. I put my hand out and John lifted Paul's hand to mine and I shook his hand. But that was all.

Mom came into the Haven one afternoon after

being away. Paul was laughing. When he saw Mom, he turned away.

John explained to her. "We told Paul that when you came he should jump up and throw his arms around you and kiss you for all the things you have done for him."

Next evening Mom took Paul out to the front room. She asked the girls to dance with him. They took him by the hand and led him out to the floor. He danced, in a slow, walking way, and seemed to enjoy it.

The next night he went to the girls. He didn't say a word, but took them to the floor, one by one.

One girl suggested a cup of coffee and some doughnuts. All the way up to the counter and all the time they were eating, Paul wouldn't let go of the girl's hand. I noticed it was red because he hung on so tight.

Paul had on a pair of black shoes that Mom had given him. They were really too small, so Mom decided to get him another pair.

"Here, Paul, I bought you a new pair of shoes. Put them on." Paul put them on, walked around. Then he came back.

"How do they fit, Paul?"

"All right." PAUL TALKED. It was just that sudden, that undramatic. And he continued to, from then on.



Courtesy Veterans Administration

"Mom"

Another patient that Mom helped and who later was discharged came back one day.

"You big bum," Mom remarked, "I don't ever get to see you any more."

"It's your own fault," he replied with a grin, "You took too good care of me."

During the war, Mrs. S. E. Stern was head of the American Women Volunteer Services' clubhouse at Dibble General Army Hospital at Menlo Park, California, about three miles from the Palo Alto Veterans' Hospital. When Dibble Hospital closed down at the end of the war, the American Women Volunteer Services' clubhouse at Dibble had to close down, too. Mrs. Stern called a meeting to discuss what to do. The manager of the Veterans' Hospital and the Chief of Special Services were there. The conversation got around to recreation at the mental hospital.

Suddenly Mom got the idea that the hospital should have a clubhouse. She spoke of her idea and both men were very enthusiastic. Three or four days later they called Mom and asked her to take charge of a clubhouse at the hospital. The hospital would erect a prefabricated-type building in three weeks.

Mom was all packed to go to Indiana for a month's vacation. She said she'd think it over. Her son had been killed flying for the Army Air Forces during the war. Maybe that had something to do with her desire to help young veterans. She thought it over—and unpacked.

Three weeks later the Haven was completed. The building consisted of a quonset hut and a prefabricated structure placed at one end of the hut to form a T. Stove, refrigerator, tables and chairs were moved from the clubhouse at Dibble.

The clubhouse was decorated by patients. One painted murals, most of them scenes of the hospital grounds, including a picture showing an army of patients pushing a row of mowers across the lawn. Another patient covered a wall with the likeness of an apple tree loaded with ripe red fruit. The murals are pieces of art—they're good.

Patients are forever bringing in flowers to decorate the hut, and the flowers usually are carefully picked and arranged to form a bouquet.

The Men

The men appreciate the Haven. They consider it their own, and probably its greatest compliment is that it is always full. And, walking in, you would never know the men are patients in a mental institution.

Some of the men who are most appreciative of

the Haven are shy. One night a man came to the counter with a quart jar in his hand.

"Will you fill it up, lady? And can you spare a piece of cake? A-a-a-another one? Oh, thank you, lady, thank you." He wasn't thinking of himself. He walked out, taking the refreshments to a guard somewhere out in the cold that night.

Another night a face appeared at the front door of the Haven. Mom Stern was sitting in the receptionist's chair and happened to look up. The man had never been inside the Haven. He was talking to himself.

He looked and looked and then muttered, "That's our Haven. What a beautiful, beautiful place. We should be proud of our Haven."

And then there are the patients who give the ladies a bad time.

Jim is always eating. He comes to the counter for a cup of coffee and a doughnut. Five minutes later he is back for more, only he is very careful to pick another lady to serve him.

The limit is one spoonful of sugar per cup, but there's always the patient who slips another spoonful in when the ladies aren't looking.

Arnold wants his coffee Boston style—cream in the cup first. My wife didn't understand what he wanted the first time she waited on him. She thought he just wanted the cream before the sugar.

"You've never been to Boston or you would have known," the man declared, then added, "But that's all right."

Mom works hard at the Haven. It is her whole life. Although she lives 15 miles from the hospital, she arrives at 10 every morning and doesn't leave until 10 that night, scarcely taking time out to eat. Even on Saturdays, when the Haven is closed, she often comes for a while in the afternoon.

She keeps 100 volunteer women and girls working together happily, and that's some feat if you can do it. She jokes and talks with the patients and keeps things moving. Her personality is the personality of the Haven.

The Haven is open to "parolees" from 2 to 4 every afternoon and 6 to 8:30 every evening, except Saturdays, when the Haven is closed all day.

Wednesday nights the patients get an extra hour. And you would think those men were kids the way they enjoy every second of that extra hour.

So-called "closed wards" are brought by their guards for an hour on special afternoons. The clubhouse is open to employees as well as patients, and they come often.

The name, "The Haven," was chosen by a patient in an all-patient contest. Pretty good name, don't you think?

A Recreation Board Preserves Its Identity

By WALTER H. HELLMANN
Superintendent of Recreation
Fairfield, Conn.

ATTEMPTS TO STREAMLINE municipal government sometimes tend to imperil the existence of the recreation board as a separate entity. Such was recently the case in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Fairfield is an old community as American towns go. It was founded in 1639 and is now entering its fourth century of existence. Up to a few years ago it has found the typical New England town meeting the most satisfactory means of conducting its official business.

There is no denying that the town meeting form of government is the democratic ideal and in small communities does provide the means for every citizen having a direct voice in the control of local government. However, due to the rapid industrial growth of the area, Fairfield has reached the point where the number of registered voters far exceeds the capacity of the largest auditorium in town. This makes it impossible to ascertain the will of the people unless elaborate election machinery is set up. Attendance at town meetings has dwindled to a mere handful of the electorate so that sixty to one hundred people pass on business and budgets totaling over \$1,500,000.

Recognizing the need for an improvement in the method of conducting town business a group of citizens headed by the Fairfield League of Women Voters instigated the formation of a Charter Revision Committee. This bi-partisan committee made a thorough study of governmental needs of the town and in due time presented a proposed charter for discussion and later adoption. The aim of the new charter was to consolidate or eliminate some of the existing boards whose functions overlapped.

In spite of the fact that the Recreation Board had conducted for a number of years what seemed to be a progressive public relations program, the Charter Committee recommended that it be eliminated and its function taken over by the Park Board. The Recreation Board members, realizing that the action of the Charter Committee was due to a lack of knowledge of the differences in function of a recreation and a park department, drew

up a list of very cogent reasons for presentation at the public hearings on the proposed charter.

Reasons Presented

Each member of the Charter Committee was furnished in advance with a copy of those reasons. At the hearing the Recreation Board chairman gave a clear and logical presentation of the need for a separate recreation authority. The reasons for a separate recreation board are as follows:

I. Difference in Function

1. The function of the Park Board is to acquire, develop and maintain park and recreation areas. This in itself is a full-time job when one considers the program the Park Board has laid out in the development of the Tunxis Hill Park (25 acres of land recently acquired) and Jennings Beach (28 acres of undeveloped shore front on Long Island Sound). The development of other areas as time goes on will necessitate even greater responsibility.
2. The function of the Recreation Board is to develop activities and programs that make use of all community recreation facilities. This includes the use of school buildings, which do not come under the jurisdiction of the Park Board.
 - a. The type of service performed by the Park Board employees differs greatly from that performed by Recreation Board employees. Throughout the year the Recreation Board employs, trains and supervises the work of some 35 to 40 different employees, many of whom use highly specialized techniques: for example, the work of a choral director is vastly different from that of a swimming instructor or basketball referee.

- II. Separate budgets are more likely to provide greater financial latitude for each Board. Where both functions are considered under one budget, one or the other is likely to suffer greater retrenchments than if separate bud-

gets were maintained. In other words, one department becomes the step-child.

III. A separate Recreation Board is more likely to be able to campaign for increased park and recreation facilities without having the onus of self-interest attached to the acquisition of land and properties for itself.

IV. The present setup of the Board which includes representatives of the Park and School Boards as well as citizens at large, was adopted after recommendation by the National Recreation Association, a recognized authority in the field. The Board has functioned smoothly and cooperatively at all times with the Park and School Boards. The best proof of the feasibility of the present arrangement is the result of what has been accomplished.

In 1938 we had a budget of \$2,500.00, four playgrounds and one league in basketball and baseball. In 1946-47 we have a budget of \$16,000.00, ten playgrounds, four recreation centers in school buildings, junior, senior and midget leagues in baseball and basketball, two badminton clubs, an archery club, a fly-tying club, after-school programs on fall and spring, outdoor motion pictures, neighborhood Halloween celebrations, a swimming and life sav-

ing program. We supervise and train the lifeguards at the four town beaches, issue baseball, softball and tennis permits, loan picnic kits to community, civic, religious and social groups, conduct tennis and badminton leagues and tournaments and advise numerous individuals and groups on recreation and athletic problems. We developed a community choral and instrumental group also.

It is our firm conviction that this progress could not have been made by a board whose efforts were also devoted to other functions.

Reaction

Representatives of several civic groups with whom the recreation department has worked supported the statements of the recreation chairman. The Charter Committee was convinced when presented with the facts and it recommended that the Recreation Board be left as it was originally constituted.

This incident would seem to point out the fact that the more varied a recreation program is, the more difficult it would be to consolidate it under another department and that while a public relations program does not reach all individuals of the community, it does assure a good backlog of support in time of need.

The Place of the National Recreation Association in Recent Year-Round Developments

THE VERY LARGE SHARE which the National Recreation Association has had in the expansion of the number of year-round programs since 1940 is indicated clearly by the following figures recording the number of cities which have received service through visits by the Association's field workers during this period.

564 or more than 92 percent of the 613 cities reporting full-time leadership in the 1946 YEAR BOOK received field service from the Association.

Of the 182 cities reporting full-time leadership in 1946 for the first time, 153 or more than 84 percent received field service.

Of the 97 cities that did not submit YEAR BOOK reports for 1940, 1942, or 1944 but reported full-time leadership in 1946, all but 16 received field service.

During the period 1940-1946, 700 of the 775 cities reporting full-time leadership in one or more of the four YEAR BOOKS received field service. More than 90 percent of the year-round cities were therefore served in this way by the Association.

In addition to the above, a number of the cities which did not receive field visits were assisted by the Association in finding leadership personnel. Few, if any, of the 775 cities were not served by the Correspondence and Consultation Bureau between 1940 and 1946.

Music in the Library

By KATHERINE CONGER
Enoch Pratt Free Library
Baltimore, Maryland

TWELVE YEARS AGO the Fine Arts Department of the Enoch Pratt Free Library inaugurated a new service to its patrons which has grown into one of the most rewarding of its many activities. In 1935, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which had already granted the library money to finance a series of excellent book-lists on art subjects, gave to the Fine Arts Department the Carnegie College Music Set, consisting of 800 phonograph records, 251 scores, and 129 books. This collection is carefully selected to offer a basic, comprehensive course in music history and appreciation and is intended primarily for college use. The Pratt Library is proud that it was the first, and for a time the only public library to receive this collection.

The Carnegie gift books were added to the regular music collection, but the records and scores were placed in a sound-proof music room, adjacent to the Fine Arts office. After experimenting, we adopted the present plan of permitting a patron to reserve the music room for an hour at a time and letting him select the records he wished to hear from a catalog. Anyone may reserve the music room, whether he is a card-holder or not, and he may bring friends with him. Often groups of Girl Scouts, small classes of school children, or clubs come in for a planned listening program. In such cases, we extend the time to two hours on request.

In its first ten years of service, 26,976 appointments were made and kept, and the number of individual listeners is estimated at over 100,000.

Wartime Listeners

This opening of the music room to all comers led to long waiting lists. During the war, many servicemen who wanted to use the room were un-



Courtesy Baltimore Sunday Sun Magazine

able to make appointments because of the uncertainty of their free hours. In 1944, luck and persuasion won us another fine gift, which furnished at least a partial solution to the servicemen's listening problem. One patron mentioned to a Fine Arts assistant that he would like to offer the department a gift in memory of his mother. When the staff member told him about the need for further listening facilities, he decided to give us a table phonograph with two sets of earphones for use in the reading room. This machine cannot be reserved in advance; any adult patron may use it, although servicemen and women have first call. This service proved so popular that in August 1945 the same reader gave us a second phonograph, with three sets of earphones on the same conditions of use.

By the end of 1946 these two machines had been used by 9,725 eager listeners. Many were in the armed forces or merchant marine of allied nations; and, of course, there were Americans from all over the country. One merchant seaman who spent a happy evening with the Brahms symphonies telephoned from the pier as soon as his ship had docked, and asked the quickest way to get to the Central building. He had visited us two years

before and had been so impressed by our musical facilities that he advertised the Pratt Library around the world and made it his first stop on his return trip.

Meanwhile, in 1940, the National Committee for Music Appreciation, acting through its Baltimore chapter, made a gift of \$1,000 to establish a circulating record collection, later adding \$600 for operating expenses during the first year. The many problems involved in working out routines were solved and now patrons may go directly to the shelves and select records for home enjoyment. In the beginning demand so far exceeded supply that only one album was allowed to a borrower. With the installation of a pay collection in 1943 the returns from which are used for the purchase of more records, our funds have so increased that we now permit patrons to borrow as many albums as they like.

Although single records were lent at first, the difficulties of handling and shelving proved so great that now only albums may be borrowed. Important single records are added to the non-circulating music room collection. There is always a free copy of each album lent for seven days, while the rental copies have a borrowing fee of ten cents, plus a charge of three cents a day from the time they are taken out. This income, together with gifts of albums, records and money is our only source of funds, as nothing is allocated from the library's book fund for the purchase of music records. The music room collection at the end of 1946 contained over 3,000 records, and there were about the same number of records in the circulating collection.

Users of music records are about 70 percent men, many of them of high school and college age and a large proportion are veterans. Our peak record circulation was in November 1946 when we lent over 5,000 records in one month. Symphonies are in greatest demand, with vocal recordings, especially opera and folk songs, running a close second.

Other Records

In response to demand, we are now buying a limited number of music albums for children. These have been carefully selected by the Director of Work with Children. When the children's room is able to set up its own collection of records, these will be transferred, but meanwhile they are available to parents.

The Pratt Library's policy is to keep all material on a given subject in the subject department, no matter what the form of such material may be. In 1937 the Literature and Language Department

inaugurated what was probably the first or at least one of the first free circulating collections of poetry, drama and language records in the country. This collection now numbers about 600 records. French, German and Spanish are the language courses most in demand—always with a long waiting list—but others in Portuguese, Italian, Russian, Chinese and Latin and English are also popular. Among the drama records, Shakespeare is most consistently in demand. Recently a number of dramatized narratives from classic novels have been added. Poetry, read by the author or professional readers, forms a large part of this collection and is very popular with teachers, poets and readers in general.

The History Department has just begun to acquire documentary records, such as speeches of statesmen or historic radio broadcasts. Each of these departments has a table machine with earphones, gifts of patrons inspired by the memorial phonographs in the Fine Arts Department.

These earphone models were especially designed and built by a local firm. In addition to these, the Fine Arts Department has acquired a stock-type portable phonograph with built-in speaker used for record concerts or in connection with music talks. During one winter season we experimented successfully in playing two half-hours of music each week, one from 5:30 to 6:00 P.M., the other from 12:30 to 1:00 P.M. This was reluctantly given up because of lack of sufficient staff.

However, similar concerts have been arranged in branch libraries, generally planned on some one subject such as opera, symphonic music, Negro spirituals or folk music, and have been combined with displays of books, pictures, posters and maps. Since November 1946 twelve of the 26 branch libraries have used the phonograph at least once. One branch, the first to start a regular bi-monthly program has held 11 Monday evening concerts. Besides these 12, two branch libraries have their own phonographs. One, an earphone machine (another memorial gift), is used continuously, especially by young people; the other machine belongs to the branch librarian and is used in giving a weekly concert for young people.

All of these programs are played in the reading rooms, and are completely informal. The business of the library goes on as usual and people sit and listen as long as they wish.

Our twelve years of experience have pointed out to us that the possibilities of expansion are almost unlimited, with adequate staff and funds the only stumbling block. We have found the public to be music-hungry!

"When You and I Were Young, Maggie"

COMPLETE WITH impressive handlebar mustaches, saucy black bow-ties perched on boiled shirts, checked blazers, caps set at rakish angles, striped sweaters, flowing knickers and striped knee-length hose, five foursomes vied for the honor of the best barber shop quartet in the city-wide American ballad contest in New York City in June.

This thirteenth annual contest was held, as have most of the preceding ones, on the Mall in Central Park amid stage props reminiscent of a tonsorial establishment of bygone days. The quartets were finalists from the preliminary contests conducted in each of the five New York boroughs by the Department of Parks.

Quartet singing of such popular barber shop ballads as "Dear Old Girl," "Mandy Lee" and many other songs made famous by the harmonizing habitues of the old tonsorial parlors in the nineties, was revived in 1935 when the New York Park Department, of which John J. Downing is Director of Recreation, included a contest for barber shop quartets in its program of recreation activities. Twenty foursomes entered the competition that year and interest in this type of vocal activity has increased steadily since then. The first national championship was held at the New York World's Fair in 1940 under the auspices of a nation-wide organization called "The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America," more familiarly known by its pronunciation-defying initials as SPEBSQSA!

Winners of the 1947 ballad contest were the "Brooklyn Dodgers Knothole Four," resplendent in the colorful baseball regalia of yesteryear. Their mellow renditions of "Coney

Island Babe" and a medley of tunes which included "I Had a Dream" must have turned the memories of some of the 15,000 listeners on the Mall back to the days of vaudeville, of Weber and Fields, the Cohan family, a singing waiter named Izzy Baline who climbed the Tin Pan Alley road to fame as Irving Berlin, of Anna Held and Lily Langtry, of Pat Rooney dancing his famous jig and Lillian Russell singing, "Kiss Me Mother, Ere I Die."

The printed program for the occasion was red, white and blue, adorned with an array of barber poles which served as pedestals for the busts of four mustachioed tunesters.

Featured on the 1947 program were guest quartets and selections by the Police Department Band. Not to be outdone by the artists on the stage in the bandshell, the audience tenors, baritones, sopranos and others demonstrated their abilities in a community singing session of "Sidewalks of New York," "Sweet Adeline" and other melodious old-timers.

As colorful almost as the songs they sing and the outfits they display have been the names of some of the competing foursomes through the

years: the Fireside Troubadours, the Four Little Pork Chops, Little Shavers, the Four Mullalys, Hawley's Tonsorial Twitterbugs, the Harmoniums, the Gas House Boys, the Blue Streak Quartet, the Flatbush Hoboes and the Troublesome Foursome.

Rules

Only amateur quartets are permitted to compete in the American Ballad Contest, and the music must be of the American ballad or barber shop variety. Included each year with the entry blank is a list of suggested songs such



as the tear-jerking "She Is More to Be Pitied than Censured" and the rhythmic "Red Wing."

Each quartet may sing two numbers or two medleys or a combination of one number and one medley. No quartet is allowed to sing more than six minutes and instrumental accompaniment is permitted for the starting chord only. At the final competition, the foursomes are required to be in costume appropriate to the "Gay Nineties."

Scoring is on the basis of: tone, rhythm, musical technique, harmony and originality, 60 percent; interpretation, expression, phrasing, 30 percent; stage presentation, costume, stage presence, 10 percent.

Elsewhere

New York City claims no monopoly on barber shop harmonizations, for there are chapters of SPEBSQSA in cities throughout the country. In addition, recreation departments in some localities report barber shop singing as one of their activities. The Recreation Department of the Chicago Park District organized barber shop quartets last February and the Columbia, South Carolina, Recreation Department reveals that barber shop singing is popular with the Teen-Age Glee Club. In July 1947, SPEBSQSA Chapter No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan, sponsored its second annual Barber-shoppers' Show Boat Cruise, a moonlight boat ride on Lake Saint Clair which featured community singing and dancing in addition to quartet harmonizing. A notation at the bottom of the flyer circulated to publicize the affair stated: "Sure! . . . Bring her along. . . . She'll have a swell time, too."

Few cities, however, can rival the grandiose display of melody and atmosphere that issues forth from the Central Park Mall each spring as the Park Department goes all out for its ballad contest.

Howard Braucher Honored

A CITATION AND MEDALLION were presented to Howard Braucher, President of the National Recreation Association, by the National 4-H Club Camp in Washington, D. C., on June 18, 1947.

The citation read as follows:

"A citation to Howard Braucher, author, co-operator, administrator. Community leader. Author of many publications relating to recreational activities for youth. Cooperated with the Extension Service in providing recreational training for 4-H Club leaders. President of the National Recreation Association."

Fun with a Microscope

By JOSEPH D. OWENS

Director, Granville R. Lee Recreation Center
Portland, Maine

HOBBIES are a "dime a dozen" these days, but the writer was confronted with a new one recently at the Granville R. Lee Recreation Center. The Center, which is Portland's first indoor recreation building, is devoted to the promotion of family and adult recreation and education, and has been in operation just one year.

Meeting at the Lee Center once a month is a group of 15 adults who are members of the Metcalf Chapter of the Maine Society of Amateur Microscopists. The club is named after the late Rev. Joel H. Metcalf, a widely known Portland microscopist. Included in the group are people from all walks of life. There is a candy-maker, an attorney, a cabinet maker, a retired postal clerk, a machinist, a machine operator, an accountant, and there are several housewives and school teachers.

The organization has been meeting since 1945 in the homes of various members, but with the opening of the Lee Center the group found an ideal place where they could open their meetings to the public, and use the building facilities for the social part of their program after their regular business meetings and demonstration or lecture. The center's ping-pong tables proved to be excellent laboratory tables, providing plenty of space for all the microscopes and room enough for the hobbyists to prepare slides and other pieces of accoutrement necessary to the work.

The group has obtained and keeps up-to-date a fine library with the latest dope on microscopy. Each member of the club has his microscope, an American-made laboratory model, equipped with three objective lenses and ranging from 9 to 2,075 power.

During the spring and summer months, field trips are made to lakes and ponds to gather specimens for laboratory work.

Each club member is assigned one meeting a year at which he or she is in charge of the program or demonstration to be given. Topics range from "Slides to be Made From the Antennae of Various Insects" to lectures on entomology, mineralogy, and blood analysis.

President of the club, Herbert M. W. Haven, says the group has "attained interest and inspiration by the use of the microscope for recreation."

29th

NATIONAL RECREATION CONGRESS

NEVER BEFORE in the history of the public recreation movement have the developments been more encouraging than they are today on the eve of the Twenty-Ninth National Recreation Congress. Just a quick glance at the summary of community recreation as presented in the 1946 RECREATION YEAR BOOK will prove the authenticity of this heartening statement.

Once again, this time from October 13-17 at the Hotel New Yorker in New York City, the Recreation Congress will perform its historic function. Recreation leaders, professional and volunteer, representing many agencies, from many localities, will come together to exchange information and experience and prepare themselves for further advances. For five days in group meetings, large and small, in demonstrations, in conferences, in workshops and in other ways, leaders will have an opportunity to give and receive ideas. Discussion of practical problems being faced in local communities will be emphasized in group meetings and general sessions will feature nationally known speakers.

The topics for group discussion include: planning school buildings for community recreation, church recreation, personnel problems and standards, recreation in real estate developments, recreation on the college campus, state government agencies serving recreation, problems of recreation agencies in cities of 10,000 and under, problems of recreation agencies in cities of 500,000 and over, recreation in rural areas and small communities, charges and fees for recreation, teen-age centers, recreation for older people, programs for little children, an adequate recreation program for girls, special recreation programs for women, planning and development of recreation areas.

Other topics for group discussion are: recrea-

tion equipment problems, graduate and undergraduate training for recreation personnel, in-service training for recreation personnel, hospital recreation—veterans and civilians, volunteers in public recreation service, recreation that can be shared by the family, motion pictures in recreation, public relations for the recreation program, functions of a recreation department, maintenance of recreation areas, problems of local recreation board members, clubs in the recreation program, drama in the recreation program, nature in the recreation program, arts and crafts in the recreation program.

There will be a special two-day conference for discussion of recreation problems in industry—Monday and Tuesday, October 13 and 14. Although the topics dealing specifically with industrial recreation will be concentrated in these two days, those attending these sessions will find much that will be helpful in the remaining days.

The American Recreation Society, professional organization of recreation workers, will meet on Monday, October 13, and hold its annual business meeting on Thursday, October 16.

The alumni of the National Recreation School will also hold their annual meeting at the Congress.

Three afternoons—Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday—are left free for special features of interest to delegates.

All meetings, exhibits and services at the Congress will center at the Hotel New Yorker, situated at Eighth Avenue and 34th Street. Ample rooming accommodations at minimum rates are assured for all Congress delegates *if reservations are made in advance directly to the hotel.*

Registration

Delegates are requested to notify the Congress committee in advance where possible and to register immediately upon arrival. Upon payment of the registration fee of \$3.00 the official badge, program and other information about special events will be given.

A Consultation Workshop will be set up at the Congress designed to serve the needs of individual delegates. If you have problems or special questions bring them to the Recreation Congress. Every effort will be made to help you; interviews will be arranged with persons who may help; program specialists will be available for conference; and a comprehensive collection of recreation material in classified scrapbooks will be available for your examination.

Further information may be secured from the Recreation Congress Committee, National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

Roadside Development in Texas

By JAC L. GUBBELS
Texas Highway Department
Austin, Texas

TO THE CITIZENS' groups formed in Texas some fourteen years ago belongs a lion's share of the credit for the public interest and enthusiasm that has been generated for the advancement of more attractive and enjoyable roadsides. The effect of their work does not end at the right-of-way line, nor does it end with the area that can be seen from the highway. It is reflected in the homes and yards far removed from major highways and streets.

It is through the cooperation of these groups that the Texas Highway Department secured, free of charge, the necessary land on which it has built to date a total of 516 roadside parks. Here motorists may interrupt a tiresome drive by resting in the shade of a big tree. They may eat a watermelon or picnic lunch—perhaps even build a fire and broil a steak. Some of the parks overlook scenic attractions such as mountains, beautiful rivers or broad valleys. In most instances, they provide the best vantage points for viewing the landscape.

In 1933 the State Highway Commission appointed a State Chairman to organize a citizens' group for advancement of roadside improvement over the state. The State Chairman first appointed 25 district chairmen, located in the same vicinity where the State Highway Department had district headquarters. Each district chairman then selected a chairman for each county in the district, and by 1935 the entire state of 254 counties was well-organized.

Projects

The projects undertaken by this organization, under the sponsorship of the Highway Department, included wild flower shows to be held in practically every community of over 5,000 population, and often in smaller communities. The purpose was two-fold: to give the citizens in the state a greater appreciation of the native flora, and, second, it was argued that when the personnel of the Highway Department picked the wild flowers on the roadsides, brought them into the community



Courtesy Texas Highway Department

hall, and helped with the arrangement, it would help greatly to overcome the existing prejudice that the handling of flowers was a "woman's job."

The plan succeeded wonderfully. No lectures were given, only the realistic handling did the job, and from there on, highway maintenance crews saw to it that flowers on the right-of-way were never mowed before going to seed. Citizens became observant of the wild flower law whereby no person over seventeen years of age can pick wild flowers in the state of Texas without a permit from the property owner or custodian, and the movement to conserve natural beauty gained momentum.

The next project of the citizens' group was to secure roadside park sites free of charge from property owners at places selected by the personnel of the Landscape Department. Seven hundred of these sites were donated.

Another important activity of the citizens' group was to award prizes in each county for the most orderly maintained filling station, restaurant and private home. Impartial local citizens were appointed as judges. The project made the people in this state conscious of trash, oil cans and old tires lying around, conscious of unkept buildings and grounds. This program was particularly far-reaching because, in general, an improvement of all establishments along the roadside took place.

Council Appointed

Immediately after the war the Highway Commission appointed a nine-member council for roadside development. The council was to select its own chairman and the 25 district engineers each appointed his own district chairman and county chairmen in the formulation of the citizens' organization. A pamphlet of procedure for this organization was issued and put into effect.

The Roadside Council's duty is to promote legislative matters pertaining to dumping grounds, junkyard control, minimizing of outdoor advertising billboards, the removal of snipe signs, the collection of historical data and points of interest in the state, and to carry out the policy established on designations and dedications of memorial highways. The council serves overlapping terms, its members being appointed for terms of two, four and six years. As these terms expire and new appointments are made, all terms will be for six years.

The Council also adopted the plan of a living memorial to the men and women who served this nation during the war. It was a plan that had been conceived originally by the old citizens' organiza-

tion from which was developed the Citizens' Roadside Council. The living memorial is developed through the selection of a flowering tree or shrub for each county, promoting the idea that one or more of the species be planted in each individual yard in cities, villages, hamlets and individual rural homes, to ultimately attain the end that a certain region will be widely known for oleander, or roses, or crepe myrtle, or redbud, or dogwood, or other shrubs.

This work is now conducted by the citizens' organization and the plan for execution is well under way. Thus many thousands of wistaria, oleander, bougainvillea, pyracantha and other varieties have been planted. In many instances where citizens were unable to purchase these plants, citizens' groups have bought carload lots for free distribution to these people who sign an agreement that they will maintain and help grow the planted shrub or tree. It is clearly the people's program—in which everybody is to participate. The results are very gratifying, especially in the smaller cities.

The roadsides over this state suffered considerably from neglect due to war-time activities and the necessity of concentrating the reduced maintenance almost exclusively to that part of the road actually under the rubber. The maintenance of wayside parks was often neglected during this period. At present, however, there is a renewed effort to restore them to prewar appearance, and the desire among the personnel of the Highway Department is to go far beyond that which was accomplished before the war.

The Citizens' Roadside Council will continue its primary objective of promoting a greater public appreciation of beauty and recreational facilities along the roadsides. It is an endeavor for which it is more properly fitted than the agency charged with building and maintaining the highways. Working with the Council, the Texas Highway Department will strive in the future to make the highway system more adequate for the essential travel needs of motorists in Texas, and at the same time provide the added service of convenient relief and diversion from the monotony of driving over the vast expanse of the Lone Star State.

Drive Safely

The Coronado, California, *Recreation News* quotes the Chief of Police, June W. Jordan, as saying "Children should be seen, not hurt."

Caution: Bicycles Ahead

By WALTER H.
ZIMMERMAN
Billings, Montana

EARLY one August morning, Montana motorists were startled by the sudden appearance of row upon row of teen-age bicycle riders. This strange caravan was the first in a series of cross-country bicycle trips which the Department of Public Recreation of Billings, Montana, inaugurated for the youth of that city. With the help of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, who sponsored the trip, the recreation department plans to make the event an annual affair. The enormous amount of interest already shown in the trip makes it almost certain that the number of Billings bicycle enthusiasts will grow by leaps and bounds.

Since Montana's terrain consists largely of mountains and rolling hills, the length of the trip was necessarily reduced. Therefore, the destination for the first trip was Big Timber, Montana, a fair-sized town about 82 miles from Billings.

Fifty-four excited boys, ranging in age from 9 to 14, left Billings at 5 A.M. one Saturday morning and arrived at Big Timber at 3 that afternoon.

By prearrangement, all meals in Big Timber, with the exception of the Sunday barbecue, were served to the boys by a local restaurant, the cost being defrayed by the Billings Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Although the sights of a strange city caused the boys to be more than a little noisy, the Big Timber residents unanimously pronounced them well-behaved guests.



Courtesy Milwaukee Municipal Recreation Department

Events

Saturday evening the entire group attended the local theater and Sunday morning after church the boys enthusiastically participated in the Pioneer Day Parade, in which they gave a demonstration of half-circle riding. Following the parade, they had dinner at a huge open-pit barbecue. It was the opinion of the boys that the open-pit barbecue is one place where plenty to eat is assured! At an old-fashioned western rodeo in the afternoon there was a special calf-roping event in which only the boys from Billings participated. It was early to bed Sunday night in order to be ready to depart at 4 A.M. Monday.

Preparation

Much more effort and preparation had gone into that trip than is at first apparent. Several months before the slated date, all interested cyclists were given copies of the bicycle safety rules—to be studied. Several meetings were held at which the rules were reviewed by both the chairman of the bicycle trip and the local police. The boys were

then required to qualify for the trip by passing a standard cycling test. This test is one of the most valuable features of the trip, for it familiarizes the boys with community rules of safety as well as national regulations.

After the boys had successfully passed their cycling tests, they had to take their bicycles to a local shop for a thorough inspection—made free of charge by the local bicycle shops as part of their contribution to the trip.

Meanwhile, the recreation department officials had contacted the State Highway Patrol and the police departments of various cities through which the caravan would pass, thus securing their approval and cooperation for the trip. It was also necessary to secure three large trucks. These trucks acted as windshields for the riders and, at the same time, each had a specific use: one was designated as a repair truck, another as a supply truck, and the third was to carry spare riders. (There was a spare rider for every five bicycles.)

The State Highway Patrol acted as a pace-setter

for the trip, traveling at approximately 12 miles per hour. When the caravan was correctly formed, it was in the following order: (1) a State Highway Patrol car, which slowed all oncoming traffic; (2) a truck carrying the spare riders; (3) bicycle riders; (4) a truck carrying supplies; (5) bicycle riders; (6) a truck carrying the repair unit; (7) a State Highway Patrol car, which flagged all traffic going in our direction; and (8) at a considerable distance to the rear, a pleasure car carrying a huge placard which read, "Caution, Bicycle Riders Ahead." This formation was so designed to eliminate any danger to the cyclists from regular highway traffic.

The repair truck was equipped by a local bicycle shop, which also furnished a mechanic who took charge of the repair unit, in the interests of the promotion of cycling in the city of Billings. The supply truck carried the boys' personal property as well as all the food necessary for the meals en route.

This bicycle trip proved a very successful venture for both the boys and the sponsors of the trip.

Seamen Are People

By GWYN CAMPBELL

Program Director
United Seamen's Institute Unit
Galveston, Texas

WE HAVE BEEN accustomed to regard a seaman not as a member of an industry only, but as one of a generic group having certain definite characteristics. Popularly, a sailor is believed to be unstable, intemperate, dependent. A seaman's home is thought to be the corner saloon, his recreation a period of wild excess between trips, his religion a jumble of superstitions. We are inclined to picture him as a much tattooed, violent person given to unreasoning acts of generosity. It is an interesting romantic concept but only as true of the mariner as it is of any other workers.

There are reasons why this concept should have developed. Until comparatively recently this was a badly paid job. Consequently it was a refuge for the incompetent, the fugitive, the man who failed

to adjust to normal society. Now it is relatively well-paid, disciplined employment, attracting stable ambitious men, many of whom intend to make it their career. To many of us who have not previously worked with this group, it has been hard to discard old prejudices. Even after months or years we will say that a certain action is typical of a seaman when we really mean that it is in keeping with our earlier misconception.

Problems

Initiation in the field required definite adjustments—adjustments, in my case, far from complete. First, I had to realize that seamen are made up of a normal cross-section of American manhood. Second, that no matter how enthusiastic the acceptance of a program by younger seamen, unless the older men took part, the job was only half done. Third, the program had to be flexible due to the rapid changes in membership, and fourth—the common denominator in all fields of recreation—our funds were necessarily restricted.

The majority of seamen are young—over 70 per cent are under 30—proud of their homes, ambitious. That the seaman is fond of his home, in many cases frankly homesick, is shown by the eagerness with which he shows pictures of family and home. He wants to be accepted by the com-

munity and is sensitive to community attitudes. He doesn't like the waterfront saloon, but is attracted to the friendly welcome if no other place is available.

Like most war-born agencies, the United Seamen's Service suffered at the beginning by the lack of materials and adequate personnel. Program could not be tested. It gradually developed in response to demand. We had to draw on experience in other fields, often fields with little similarity to this setting. The idea of a recreation program was relatively new to seamen. They did not know what to expect from USS nor did they understand that changes in program could only come in response to their suggestions.

In spite of all handicaps the recreation offered was well-supported and the basic plan is still followed. The differences, however, between war-time and postwar operations are many. There is an increasing understanding between seamen and USS personnel. There is a sharp reduction in available funds. There is decreased community interest. Above and beyond everything else, there is a process of democratization that is making our program more healthy, more useful, than it has ever been.

Peacetime Picture

The best example of this is the weekly house meeting held on Sunday afternoons. During the war period our house meeting attracted 14 or 15 seamen. Now we have an average of 60 attending, and on occasion have had over 100.

These men are not by any means all residents in the club. They come from ships, from rooming houses, from all parts of the town. There is no difficulty keeping order, although the elected chairman is besieged by requests from the floor. All have ideas and every idea is carefully analyzed before acceptance or dismissal.

A year ago it was suggested that we do away with our weekly orchestra dance because of expense. The reaction then was "*Why can't you afford it?*" Recently this question was again raised and the immediate response was "*How can we afford it?*" One proposal was a canteen in the ballroom with considerably higher prices than the permanent canteen. Soft drinks were sold for 10 cents in the ballroom while the seamen could buy them for only 5 cents a few yards away. Yet the temporary canteen took nearly all business away from the other. Men who had never attended dances went there to help increase sales. As a result, we have been able to continue this part of our activity.

During the summer, lack of air conditioning made inside activities impractical. Following house meeting proposals, we obtained the cooperation of the City Recreation Department and had a lighted ball diamond allotted to us several nights a week. Often 80 men would play at some time during the night with as many spectators.

We gloomily expected that the end of the war would bring a sharp decline in the number of hostesses. This would not, as in some clubs, simply mean fewer dance partners. Our volunteers helped formulate and develop our program, enlisted community support and resources, and took part in all phases of activity. Though we did have a temporary falling off, interest revived. Volunteers publish our monthly magazine doing all the typing, mimeographing, distributing and much of the writing. They arrange and serve during coffee hours. They welcome strangers and draw them into activities.

The seaman knows that we are going through a transitional stage. He wants to be recognized, to have his club recognized by the townspeople. He will not be here long, but he will be followed by another seaman with like aspirations. He contributes to the commercial and social life of the community and demands the benefits due any other citizen. Though our port is active, there is again a good deal of unemployment in the maritime industry. The seaman does not want to set fees excluding the man down on his luck. He wants voluntary support, giving according to ability, receiving according to need.

It was a good club, the old war-time club. Lots of entertainment, plenty of money, everyone in the town interested and helping. It was a good club, but it is gone. "Our" club is not gone. It has no horizons, no set temporal limitations. "Our" club is going on.

WHEN THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 13-17 rolls around, surely you will not be among the missing at the National Recreation Congress! Whether you're a professional worker, or a volunteer layman, there are topics and features of interest to you.

Without delay, send in your hotel reservation to the Hotel New Yorker and write to the Congress Committee for further information on program outlines and topics. Addresses will be found on page 235 of this magazine.

Arts and Crafts for All

By ANNA PRESTON SHAFFNER

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

TO THE AVERAGE PERSON arts and crafts for busy people with jobs and families, with assorted public and private responsibilities, seem at first glance superfluous.

Thoughtful consideration, however, proves the absurdity of this premise. Should the satisfaction of self-expression and constructive use of leisure time, the discovery of new aptitudes, the relaxation and inspiration of this work be limited? Include not only the young and the old, the indigent and the infirm, but don't exclude *anybody*!

Our program in arts and crafts not only helps patients at the nearby T.B. sanatorium, but it also reaches teachers, lawyers, saleswomen, nurses, doctors, housewives, architects, machinists, farmers, bankers, welfare workers, employees of local industries, newspaper men and women and the strangers within our gates.

Special classes have been scheduled for recreation leaders, Girl Scout leaders, camp counselors, church, school, college and Y.M. and Y.W.C.A. groups, both white and Negro. All sections of the city are represented in these classes and increasing numbers of residents of the county and surrounding towns continue to drop in and come back.

The program is demonstrating a community need—and meeting it.

Beginnings

Our arts and crafts workshop is a year and a half old. It was started under the sponsorship of the Junior League as a three-year demonstration of the value of this type of work to a city and its environs. The project is under the aegis of the City Recreation Department which furnishes equipment, supplies and practical advice. This setup provides an opportunity to serve the city through channels and contacts already established.

Our present workshop is located in three large rooms of an old school building now being used for City Recreation Department office space. Work began on October 1, 1945.

In the early fall of that year we secured the services of a director, and after careful consideration of program possibilities it was decided that the

most effective way to start would be in the training of leaders who would carry the work back to their organizations and in the intensive training of a group of volunteers to act as workshop aides. Our director met with school principals, teachers, executives of Y.M., Y.W., Salvation Army, Girl Scouts, 4-H clubs, juvenile court and churches, both white and colored. She visited all the recreation centers, served as judge of arts and crafts exhibits at both the white and Negro fairs, and gave talks to civic clubs, colleges and parent-teacher meetings. Response was gratifying. Wide publicity was given to her plans and interest was far beyond that anticipated.

By November, eight classes were meeting weekly and the workshop was beginning to function as a center where individuals came for help on such subjects as where to get materials, how to letter, how to plan programs for school groups, clubs and troops or how to choose color schemes for the home.

A meeting of those interested in art was called and an art guild was formed for the purpose of providing opportunity for creative work, holding exhibits, study groups and so on.

The first exhibit held by the guild was well attended. Twenty-nine paintings by local artists were hung in one room and 29 photographs by local photographers were shown in the other. An exhibit of wood engravings followed. For this occasion an outline of print making with a story of the artist's work and background was prepared and sent to schools and recreation centers to create interest and encourage the children to see and study the prints. Since that time there has been a different exhibit each month.

Growth

During October, the opening month, attendance at the workshop was 199. In November this figure rose to 906 and at the end of a year and a half the cumulative attendance was 9,517!

In addition to holding regularly scheduled classes, meetings, story hours and lectures, the director and her volunteer assistants have found



time to help with the Christmas toy shop, an annual project for reconditioning old toys, and to give special assistance to the Y.W., Salvation Army, and schools in preparing for group programs, and to hold a class in the technique of makeup for the little theater group.

In spite of the Christmas rush and icy December streets that snarled traffic, these pioneer spirits did not flag. The workshop stayed open and work went on. The reports make good reading, too:

"The highlight of the program for December was the visit of an eminent Viennese designer who has lectured and taught in schools and universities in the United States for the past twelve years. During her stay she conducted one class a day in stencil printing for three different groups, and three special sessions, one each day, in silk screen printing for one group.

"Our regular classes were discontinued until after the first of the year. The workshop was kept open for those who wished to work on special projects or Christmas gifts. A printing table was prepared and some interesting work was done as a follow-up of the designer's instruction. One farm wife made a number of kitchen sets, apron, pot-holder, and tea towels, using material from grain sacks. Her designs were exceptionally good and while she was working a number of people asked her to take orders. Two teachers made material for summer dresses.

"Three men took advantage of the instruction for use in their work: a printer, a commercial artist and a man from a local knitting mill. A member of the recreation staff showed unusual

ability in the work. She plans the organization of a print club.

"Taking advantage of the workshop's open house program, there were three or four people working all the time. It was sometimes difficult to persuade them to stop for meals and closing."

This was our first Christmas. Since then classes have been added on request and filled almost immediately. Attendance not only holds up; it grows. Many classes have had to be split into two or three groups for more effective instruction.

Halfway Mark

At this halfway mark in the demonstration, the program has broadened to such an extent that there is at least one class included to interest every age, sex and color. A partial list of activities is convincing proof of this broad statement. Regularly scheduled classes include: bookbinding, textile printing, pottery, silk screen printing, water color, clay modeling, metal work, flower arrangement, drawing and painting, woodworking, art appreciation, airplane modeling, design, figure painting, stencil and block printing, sketching, storytelling, weaving, needlework, leather work, modern and ballroom dancing, dramatics, photography and marionette making. These groups are taught by local talent, in most cases with no money involved except for the small fee covering the cost of materials used. A costume room and scenery dock have recently been added. "Imported" artists are secured whenever possible to enrich the program still further.

That covers most of the list to date, although a new class may even be meeting this afternoon—a class so new that it has not yet been scheduled! If ten people express a desire to form a group which has as yet no place on the program, an instructor is secured, the class meets, work begins.

Unlike the old jigsaw toy and braided belt school of crafts, none of these activities reaches a dead end or suffers from monotony. Bookbinders progress from the making of the first treasured book to the rebinding of interesting old volumes in leather or the reclamation of children's books which may be backed with bright scraps from the rag bag. Stenciling is limited only by the number of things imagination can dream up to decorate. Furniture making, even amateur variety, can do wonders for playrooms and nurseries and living

porches. Weaving, pottery, block printing, sketching, the making of marionettes have no set horizons.

The workroom is open all day every day for individual workers as well as for scheduled classes. After acquiring a little skill, our new craftsmen can work independently as often and as long as they please. Some come every day. We may even make a cup of tea on the little workshop stove and round off a day's work by talking shop with fellow enthusiasts. There are night sessions for those who have no leisure in the daytime and a children's class on Friday afternoons after school. In summer the work is carried to the playgrounds and a special artist is employed to make sketching as popular as baseball. This sounds incredible, but more remarkable things happen every day as this experiment progresses!

Our program is tied tight to this community, but it is flexible enough to grow with the city, even to help it grow. Improvements are being added to activities already established to make

them more interesting. New skills are being discovered and put to use for our own and our neighbor's profit. A new attitude toward "the arts" has come to be an integral part of our thinking. We have learned that however awe-inspiring and intricate arts and crafts (in general) may sound, an art or a craft learned step by step and with proper instruction and encouragement can be a personal satisfaction, an easy accomplishment, and a lasting pleasure, not for the chosen few "with talent" but for the great masses of the unchosen and uninspired as well. It is a revelation, a thought to be cherished and pondered.

Our aim is to build this program into community life so thoroughly that each citizen will find its use an opportunity to be his own master at least in his leisure time; that he who has one talent will no longer bury it either self-consciously or unconsciously, but will find it and make it grow.

The end of the trail is a long way off, but we feel that we are moving, faster than we dared hope and in the right direction.

Bert Swenson

BERT SWENSON, after 29 years of directing recreation in Stockton, California, has turned the leadership over to John Lilly, who now becomes City Recreation Director, while Mr. Swenson assumes the role of Assistant Superintendent. "The increased recreation responsibilities in Stockton," declared Mr. Swenson, "should be in the hands of a younger man," and suiting his actions to his words exchanged jobs with his youthful aide.

It was in 1918 that Bert Swenson went to Stockton as head of the Playground Commission, to find a growing community without any public recreation department and few recreation facilities. But thanks to his vision and determination the city became steadily more recreation-conscious, until today it boasts many parks, swimming and wading

pools, tennis courts, baseball diamonds and a municipal camp on a lake which serves from 800 to 1,000 persons every summer.

The genial, big (6' 4", 225 pound) recreation leader brought with him to Stockton a notable athletic record in college football, baseball, basketball and track; but neither this nor his flair for telling Swedish stories impresses and delights the Stockton youngsters as much as his annual exhibition at the municipal camp, which consists of pushing his generous frame through a 10" x 14" aperture.

Bert Swenson's successor, John Lilly, is a graduate of the University of California and directed physical training at several Army posts before taking up recreation leadership in Stockton.

American Way of Life

JUST NOW the American way of life is being very much emphasized in various statements. Recently the Better Citizens Conference urged the development of a manual which should be devoted to a simple but accurate defense of the American way of life as an adventure in democracy. It was suggested that there be a clear exposition of the Bill of Rights.

No statement about the American way of life would be complete without something about the development of community recreation centers to

make life more attractive in all our areas.

From the earliest days there has been emphasis in America on freedom for the individual to do the things he most wants to do in his free time.

During the last forty years there has been a very special emphasis in the United States on the community developments in recreation, on providing opportunities for all of the people to find enduring satisfactions in their daily lives, in accordance with their own ideas, in so far as this does not involve interference with the lives of others.

Swinging on Down

By BERTHA HOLCK
Austin, Texas

FOR MANY YEARS the Recreation Department of Austin, Texas, has included a series of square dance lessons in the yearly program of its Athletic Club, but it was not until 1944 that these many citizens who had mastered square dancing had a place to get together and have an old-fashioned family square dance.

On a late summer day, Mrs. Paul Baker, new women's supervisor of the Austin Athletic Club, asked the leader of the Austin Recreation Department, "What happens to all of the people when they finish their square dance classes?"

"Nothing," was the answer, "unless they are invited to join a private club."

"But isn't there some place where these people, as well as the club people, can gather to practice and to enjoy their mutual knowledge of square and folk dancing?"

This time the answer was more explicit. "The city prepares its budget early in the year, and there are no available funds."

For a normal person that would have closed the issue, but Mrs. Baker began, in her own way, to set the stage for the family square dance that has now become a traditional entertainment twice each month throughout ten months of the year.

Her first obstacle was easily overcome when she received permission from the superintendent of the Austin Recreation Department to use the club's barn-like gym. Her second obstacle was also one that she could take in her stride—namely, a nucleus for the first dance. For this she contacted the private club, Lone Star, of which she was a member and which she knew was seeking a place to dance, and the most recent Athletic Club classes, including the energetic and enthusiastic group of teenagers who had danced on the club porch throughout the summer of 1944 to the recordings of old schottisch, little foot and square dance tunes. The third and fourth obstacles were more formidable. Who was to play and where was the money to come from to pay them? Scouting over the city of Austin, she found many fiddlers; two of them agreed to play—just for the love of playing if necessary. Their loyalty and generous giving of

their time have done much toward making the family square dance a success—for without good music there can be no dance. Since there was no budget, funds for that first dance were raised by the time-honored tradition of passing the hat. Extra money was collected from refreshments sold throughout the evening at the "coke bar."

Everything seemed to be set for the first dance by October 1944, but as the Saturday drew closer and Mrs. Baker looked at the huge bare gym, she was overcome with misgiving and wondered how it would be possible to make the small nucleus of dancers feel comfortable in the large empty space. Shortly before the dance she knew she had to make the dance area smaller, and the devices she used for this were different at each succeeding dance. First the tables and chairs of the lobby were moved in around the dance floor and outdoor colored lights, left overs from some previous Christmas program, were strung along the lines made by the small tables and chairs. This "blanked out" the large bleacher space and gave the dancers a feeling of compactness and belonging together.

First Night

On the first evening the dance was opened with "Leather Britches"—to get the dancers in the jolly two-step mood. This was followed spontaneously with "Haste to the Wedding." During the evening the musicians played what they knew and then began over again. The squares were either very fundamental or very complicated, depending on the caller. If a new caller was asked to the mike, the beginners formed squares, for they knew "Take a Peek" and "Swing Old Adam" were the two calls that would be used. If, however, an experienced caller stepped up, some of the beginners would step out, for this was more than they had mastered. This situation was probably the beginning of the traditional floor show as we know it now. Mrs. Baker realized then that when the beginners saw the complicated figures, they strove to master these, too, and asked for them during the teaching sessions which were held for half an hour before the grand march.

Some sixty-odd people took active part in this, the first family square dance, and they formed an almost permanent nucleus for the many succeeding dances. Because the first dance was such a success, each one present voted to have another, and with the approval of the Austin Recreation Department, the gym was made available the first and third Saturdays of each month from 8:00 to 11:00 P.M.



Swing your partner!

Extracurricular Activities

It is impossible to give a history of the family square dance separate and apart from the history of the Pioneer Fiddlin' Folk and Square Dance Service Unit of Austin, for the two have grown and served the people of Austin together.

At the second family night, one of the fiddlers showed Mrs. Baker a letter from the special service officer at McCloskey General Hospital of Temple, Texas, addressed to the Old Fiddlers' Association of Austin, asking them to bring one hour of pioneer music to the returned veterans stationed there. Members of the Association frankly admitted that they felt they could not entertain for an hour and turned the letter over to Mrs. Baker. Here was the need for a real show and a real sponsor.

This time it was simpler to get the sponsor than the show for wartime shortages made it impossible to furnish gas, cars, or personnel. Through the musicians one of the most authentic and colorful of all the Austin pioneers was contacted. He was J. D. Dillingham, affectionately called "Uncle Dave" by each service unit member. After much

persuasion, during which he said he was too old (78), that he could not dance any more (he outjigs the entire unit, including his young brother who is only 74), and that he had lost his caller's voice completely (he brings down the house with his version of "Home, Sweet Home"), he agreed to go along just this once to do his duty in furthering the war effort. Needless to say, when he was introduced at McCloskey to a recreation hall filled with wounded veterans as "our 78-year-young Uncle Dave" he was easily the star of the show.

After a square of pioneer dancers was secured and music provided, Mrs. Baker again called upon her nucleus dancers of the family night, namely, the teen-agers and the Lone Star group. They were very enthusiastic and from them came a suggestion of having a smaller square, too. Again Mrs. Baker knew just whom she could get, for during the summer there had been children's folk classes sponsored by the Austin Recreation Department at the Athletic Club. Now she had all ages, from 8 to 78, four complete squares, the pioneers, the married couples, the teen-agers, and the twelve and under group, with a grand fiddle band. Thus the troupes started one Sunday morning in their own cars, with their rationed gas, for McCloskey General Hospital, 65 miles away, to give their first hour show to crippled veterans of World War II. Little did they dream on that bright February morning that they would be called upon by hospitals and camps all over central Texas to continue giving shows throughout the entire war.

Their biggest thrill came in May 1946 when they were invited to the show at the National Folk Festival in Cleveland, Ohio. There again, they had requests from veterans' hospitals in that area to entertain.

On each trip, and there have been over a hundred, the bus was filled with all ages, some singing gaily to the guitars and fiddles, others quietly talking and still others settling the major issues of the moment. Each person was giving generously of his time and talents, each person was too old or too young for military service, and every one was endeavoring to bring the family unit square dance to each hospital or recreation center. Letters of thanks and encouragement were received and all made the service unit feel as though they had done something for the morale on the home front. Since the war, calls have come from neighboring U.S.O. and service centers to help teach and promote American folk and square dancing among the enlistees and officers' groups—and again the Pioneer Fiddlin' Folk and Square Dance Club said "yes."

Status Today

The family square dance, as we know it today, has come a long way from the little gathering that Saturday night three years ago, and a new era of square dancing is in store for the citizens of Austin. It is true, some things are still the same; Mrs. Baker still directs the dance, the pace is still set with "Leather Britches," and there is still a grand march honoring any outstanding group, individual or visitor, and there is still a floor show. However, now the gym is almost too small to hold the dancers and instead of having to hang volley ball and badminton nets along the bleachers to blot out the vacant space, all bleacher seats are filled with interested spectators. The dancing area has become so crowded that round "spots" are spaced evenly around the floor to conserve space and time in forming squares. Formerly the elaborate decorations were designed to give a feeling of compactness to the participants. Now the decorations are simple but still in keeping with the season or special occasion that seems to be different at each dance.

At present the lights shine on the three principal walls where the Athletic Club staff artists hang large murals. Sometimes their fancy turns to fiddle bands, cowboys, or covered wagons; sometimes to Thanksgiving scenes, witches or pumpkins; and sometimes to Santa riding down the painted snow with a pack on his back. Each time one enters the gym on Saturday night, a complete new scene is in store.

Now the musicians are well-paid and the old method of passing the hat has long been discarded in favor of a nominal voluntary assessment per person at the door. The coke bar still functions and the funds help keep the family square dance a self-supporting concern. The old public address system, with its squeaky mike and humming sound box, has been replaced by a modern overall pick-up system and mike bought and used by the family square dance group. The old gym has been rewired so that soft lights can be used in place of the glaring spots that were necessary only a few months ago. The Austin Recreation Department still has regular classes for beginners, and new clubs under its sponsorship are being organized regularly; but no club would consider the first or third Saturday as a meeting date, for that is when they meet together with the family for an evening of family square dancing at the Athletic Club.

When the state inaugural committee asked the Recreation Department of Austin to have complete charge of the first pioneer inaugural ball held

since the gay nineties during the inaugural festivities honoring the new governor of Texas on January 21, 1947, these clubs and the Pioneer Service Unit formed its nucleus. With four other balls in progress, it was at the family square dance ball that the governor and his party remained the longest. It took a line of highway patrolmen to push the governor into the crowded dance hall, for dance teams and musicians had gathered from the four corners of Texas and authorities such as Shaw and Durlacher and Greggerson had come by plane and car, not just for the one ball, but for an entire week end of gay family square dances, barbecues and informal get-togethers where ideas, dances and opinions were exchanged. A direct outcome of this enthusiasm and interest in the American folk and square dance—particularly the family square dance—was the organization of a Texas dance festival to be held next winter with all cities taking part in the first festival named as charter members.

Austin can be proud of its Recreation Department and its workers who have combined the family square dance and Service Unit Club into a unit that has brought the pioneer spirit and the true American folk dance to our young people in such a way that they are proud to be allowed to dance alongside the pioneers, whether at the regular family dance, a veteran's hospital or at the inaugural ball. Yes, indeed, the family square dance is here to stay!

McClintock Appointed Superintendent

THE NEWLY consolidated Park and Recreation program in Omaha, Nebraska, is to be directed by Ralph McClintock of Fort Wayne, Indiana, according to an announcement by the Omaha Park and Recreation Commission.

Mr. McClintock leaves Fort Wayne after six years as Secretary and Director of the Park Board. Martin M. Nading, Jr., who has been the assistant director in Fort Wayne, will be promoted as Mr. McClintock's successor.

As General Superintendent in Omaha, Mr. McClintock will supervise the one million and a half dollar facilities development program for which bonds have been voted. He will also direct the reorganization of the park and recreation department and administer the program.

The Other Half of the Playground Movement

By HENRY S. CURTIS

WE HAVE GONE on the supposition in the past that the terms "play" and "recreation" referred only to children and youth; but St. Petersburg has demonstrated beyond question that old people are just as fond of good times as young people, and furthermore that the old people are willing and able to pay for them. St. Petersburg, Florida, is an old folks' playground par excellence, and it owes its prosperity to that fact. This demonstration has now been going on for many years, and its results are beyond question.

St. Petersburg is located on a peninsula with Tampa Bay on one side and the Gulf of Mexico on the other. It is, in normal years, many miles below the frost line and suitable during nearly all the winter months for outdoor bathing and practically every other outdoor activity. The term "playground" may well be applied to the city as a whole with its golf courses, beaches, conferences and festivals; but I wish particularly to refer at this time to the intensely developed areas at Mirror Lake and Beach Park.

The Mirror Lake Playground covers about two acres. It is organized and controlled by the Mirror Lake Association, which is a private organization electing its own officers and hiring its own employees. There were in February of this year 7,600 members who paid \$4.00 a year to belong.

The Association provides for this fee about every sort of game suitable for old people. Of these by far the most popular is shuffleboard. Mirror Lake has 125 courts which are nearly always in use from 9:30 in the morning till 10 o'clock at night. So great is the demand that there is often no court free, and one must wait his turn to get a game, and resign his place after playing three games. The game is as popular with the women as with the men. The Association furnishes the courts, the cues and disks, though most prefer to purchase their own cues.

There are two bowling greens which are also well-patronized but more costly, as the membership is \$16.00 a year and the balls, which are not furnished, are expensive. The average age of the players on the shuffleboard courts I should judge to be well over 70 with some far along in the eighties. The bowlers, on the whole, seem a little younger. There is one court for croquet, two courts for roque, a number of courts for horseshoes, a pavilion for such games as checkers, chess, dominoes and other quiet games, and a women's pavilion which is devoted largely to bridge and rummy.

This area is intensively used and the popularity of these activities is ample proof of the need.

There are several smaller recreation areas on much the same plan. The next largest is the one in Beach Park. It covers about half an acre, has over three thousand members and is similarly popular. I myself played on the shuffleboard courts on this playground from a little after 9 to 11 or 12, five or six days a week throughout the fall, winter and spring. There was always a friendliness and good fellowship among the players which made you soon acquainted and at home.

There are also two softball clubs that are probably more talked about than any other single feature in St. Petersburg. They are the Half Century Club, made up of men from 50 to 76 years of age, and the Three-Quarter Century Club, made up of men from 76 to 90 years of age. There are regular matched games about three times a week which, in pleasant weather, always have an attendance running far up into the hundreds. There are 36 members on the Three-Quarter Century Team, so some of the oldsters might play only one inning and might not play more than once a week. The oldest member on the team is 90. He does not play often, but one who is 86 years old is often in the game. As is to be expected, these oldsters do not run very fast or throw very well; but they bat and catch nearly as well as anyone and usually use good judgment in their play. In the middle of each game they always pass the hat for a voluntary collection, which usually runs to about a hundred dollars. This is given to the Red Cross, the city hospital, work for crippled children, or some other public charity.

Besides their ball games, the oldsters also have a choral club, and a dramatic club which gives plays.

The Audubon Club provides bird lectures and conducts bird walks, and the Garden Club gives lectures and bird walks.

Very much the same sort of activities have been spreading slowly to the country clubs and resorts of the North.

St. Petersburg is a city of some 80,000 people in summer with 50,000 to 70,000 extra tourists in the winter. These winter visitors are mostly old people, so this cannot be regarded as a normal population, but there are old people in every city and it seems likely that nearly every city in the United States of 100,000 could support at least one such playground as the one at Mirror Lake and that it would be good business to do it. Old folks seem to need these activities and appreciate them as much as the children. My idea is that in all of our larger playgrounds, and all of the playgrounds that we are to acquire hereafter, there should be a section for the oldsters. The activities that the old folks enjoy are such that they need not make great inroads on the restricted playground space.

The playground I am thinking of would be for all ages but especially for people who have reached the age of retirement. The number of these oldsters is increasing every year with our increasing life span.

School children with their classes and homework are really very busy people and they have leisure only after school, on week ends and during vacations, but most of these old people have all their time on their hands and plenty of leisure for all sorts of activities.

Of course many of them have special interests that keep them busy. Some have gardens, some like to fix up things, and others have hobbies of various kinds. The women usually fare better than the men, inasmuch as they usually have some housework to do and at any rate they can sew or knit, but there are very few of this group who could not well put in two or three hours every day in such a community center.

The same forces that are lengthening the span of human life are bringing our people up to the age of retirement in better physical condition, with a greater store of motor skills and leisure interests, that they have acquired in the recreation centers or in school activities, than their fathers had. They will be more ready to take part in all sorts of activities than their fathers were at their age.

The present age of retirement in most industries and under Social Security is 65, but the labor unions are asking that this age be reduced to 60, and if we should have a great depression with millions out of work, this lowering of the age limit may result. What is the public going to do about it? It cannot turn out our working population from industry at 60 or 65 and provide no place for them to go and nothing for them to do.

If there were a small auditorium in connection with the old folks' playground, it might well become a vital community center and civic forum for the discussion of public affairs. Many of these old people are under Social Security and may well feel that they are reserve officers of the state under a certain responsibility to render public service as the opportunity offers. The experience of St. Petersburg shows that they are glad to do it.

It would be an advantage to the playgrounds to have these old people there. They might well adopt the playground as their personal responsibility, to see that its equipment is repaired, lost balls and equipment replaced, and that it does not get under the domination of rowdies. They might well select from their number a reserve staff that might be called upon by the director to tell stories, do magic tricks, conduct bird or nature hikes, or show personal movies, of which we found there was always an ample supply in St. Petersburg. It is good, in any case, for a playground to be under observation, and to have an informed group of voters who can represent its interests at the polls; and matched games between the oldsters and the youngsters would be sure to arouse public interest.

Movie Clubs in England

J. ARTHUR RANK in a recent interview spoke with great enthusiasm of the boys' and girls' movie clubs in England. He believes that these clubs will help make confirmed customers of the motion pictures out of the coming generation—but it is not alone for business reasons that he takes so much interest in them.

The New York Times for June 1, 1947 quotes him as saying, "At present there are about 400,000 children who are members of these clubs, but we hope to increase that number before long. One picture out of every five we turn out especially for them, and we shall soon increase that proportion. I for one believe that the public will accept better pictures than many that are being made. One of the principal functions of the cinema is to improve the taste of the public. I see the film industry developing into a great art, an art which will bring happiness to many and peace to the world. Through pictures the people of one country will get to know the people of other countries and get to understand them better. It is through understanding that peace will come to the world."



American Red Cross

Photo by Day

Occupation Soldiers Sound Off— On Juvenile Delinquency

By MARIE LOMAS
American Red Cross

NO ONE HAS THOUGHT to ask the young occupation soldier what he would suggest as a solution for juvenile delinquency, but when the American Red Cross sponsored a "Star Your State" contest in the Far East recently the servicemen jumped at the chance to sound off on what they thought was needed in their individual states to combat the problem.

The idea of the contest was to give the men an opportunity to present their plans for ways and means of improving the social and economic life in their home states. As essays, models, charts and graphs poured into contest headquarters, the young soldiers, many of them teen-agers themselves, made it evident that they were taking seriously the problem of juvenile delinquency and that when they come home they intend to do something about it.

Ideas were submitted on all types of subjects, from improved harbors to ways of beautifying back alleys. But near the top and second only to the need for better educational facilities in the number of entries came juvenile delinquency.

In general the occupation soldiers' answer to the problem was the same in all 81 essays devoted to the subject—"better recreation facilities." But the servicemen didn't leave it at that. They go down to cases.

Pfc. William H. Mikesch, Detroit, Michigan, grand prize winner for the Japan area, submitted a table-size model community center, complete with floor plans. Said Mr. Mikesch, "The rapid increase in the number of multiple-family dwellings has not only eliminated the backyard—formerly the main playground of the children—but it also has reduced the opportunity for indoor forms of family recreation. My community center is designed for wholesome indoor and outdoor recreation activities for the community, to promote civic pride and enterprise and to provide cultural interest in music, art and literature."

His model features a large auditorium, ballroom, theater and rooms for major group activities.

There is a library, sewing room, music and study room, and last, but not least, a nursery so that the young marrieds can come and bring the babies that otherwise might keep the whole family at home.

Because the recreation center experience of most of the occupation soldiers has been in the American Red Cross clubs and recreation centers overseas, and because they have seen first-hand how these centers have attracted the young soldiers away from less wholesome activities, many of the community center plans were patterned closely after these clubs.

The "In-Betweens"

A plan of this type recommended by the state prize winner for New York was for a community

youth center where classes in photography, radio, languages, cooking, drama, music dancing and athletics would be given. Quiz programs and forum discussions of current affairs were among the programs suggested.

"Young people comprise a very large, very important and very neglected group," this soldier pointed out. "The results of their collective actions are felt in every home and church and throughout every community. But the absence of a collective voice has permitted their cause to go unheeded in many communities. Most of the teen-agers hold promise of good citizenship. Some do not. But all, regardless of their personal advantages, will benefit from a wisely administered program of youth activities.

"Teen-agers are diverse in their interests and their talents. Therefore, the planned program must be varied. There are the sports crowd, the bobby soxers, the Saturday salesmen, the stock boys and girls, the delivery boys, the movie ushers and usherettes, the baby tenders, the young naturalists, the camera fans, the radio hams, the amateur actors and actresses, the budding musicians, the wide-eyed chemists, the Boy and Girl Scouts and the fraternity and sorority crowd. All these and many others need an outlet for their energies, their talents and their interests.

"Judy Garland once sang a song, 'I'm Just an In-Between.' The words can be applied today to the fourteen-to-eighteen age group. It describes perfectly the young people who are in between complete dependence upon the home and the independence of maturity. They go outside the home to satisfy their social needs. Some seek diversions individually, others in a group. Not all choose their entertainment wisely. They need the opportunity for recreation and a way to use their talents in a wholesome atmosphere. The community youth center can provide this."

The Teen Canteen launched by citizens of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, which has been adopted by other Pennsylvania communities with "over a million teen-agers in 5,000 clubs in Pennsylvania," was highly recommended by a soldier who felt that this was a real stride toward solving the juvenile delinquency problem. The Teen Canteen has dancing twice a week, games and crafts on off nights and lectures and movies intermittently.

Other Suggestions

To solve the housing problem for the recreation centers a soldier from Ohio suggested the rehabilitation of deserted army camps into community

centers if near enough to be easily reached by young people. Swimming pools and tennis courts go with some of these camps.

Several soldiers suggested "open-all-year vacation parks" for families with average or low incomes. In these parks families that have never been able to afford a vacation could enjoy a ranch type hotel at rates they could afford. Included in the vacation park would be riding facilities, swimming pools, a pond for model boat races that in winter could be used for skating, a skeet range for adults, a hobby shop. As many activities as possible should be free.

A serviceman from Connecticut presented an idea for a "Hobby House" for every small community. "Many people back home have talent and ability but never get a chance to do anything because of lack of material and no place to work," he pointed out. "My idea is to have hobby shops financed by the state, craft shops where people may make things they want for a small fee. The state could buy the machinery, which is too expensive for the average citizen. For a small charge for materials Mr. Average Citizen would have an opportunity for recreation, at the same time living a richer, fuller life. Both young people and adults could share in the craft opportunities. It would help to keep young people closer to their families until they are old enough to go out independently."

Recreation Blues

ON JUNE 2, 1947 the *Baltimore Evening Sun* printed this item about its recreation director: H. S. Callowhill, director of the Baltimore Department of Recreation, said he was feeling slightly "deflated" today.

His reason was the receipt of the following message from the National Recreation Association:

"May 28, Los Angeles citizens voted by a splendid majority \$12,000,000 in bond issues for playgrounds."

Just before the message arrived, Mr. Callowhill was still feeling happy about the \$1,500,000 voted by Baltimore for playgrounds in the recent election.

Somebody pointed out that Los Angeles is bigger than Baltimore, but Mr. Callowhill said, "It's not that much bigger."

St. Louis Sells Recreation

By J. A. TURNER
Superintendent of Recreation
St. Louis, Missouri

THE SMALLER industrial organizations in the immediate vicinity of the various community centers in St. Louis have been the object of some intensive recreation promotion work during the past few months. The campaign, which has been highly successful to date and which bears the promise of 100 per cent success, was conducted by the City Recreation Department in its efforts to reach with a recreation program the maximum number of St. Louisans.

The campaign had its inception when it was realized that the recreation department with its present limitations was unable to get in contact with each St. Louisan individually. At that time it was decided that the only way to make the city as a whole aware of what the recreation department offered was to take advantage of all existing groups. In a short time, every club or social organization within a five mile radius of each of the city's community centers was made acquainted with the program offered in those centers. Most of these clubs are now represented on the community center councils which hold semi-monthly meetings at the centers and plan for the more complete use of the existing facilities, discuss the program offered and perform related functions with a view toward making the centers serve the community more completely.

Thus, with very little opposition, "Operation A" of the promotion campaign was completed. The second phase of the program bogged down. This second phase concerned those individuals not affiliated with any existing groups. After a thorough reconnaissance, the smaller industrial organizations without their own recreation facilities or programs were selected as the next objective. Teams of the centers' directors and staff members visited the company executives to secure their cooperation. The reception these visiting groups received was generally very discouraging.

The small gains that were made by these visits were fortified with some attractive activities designed to the tastes of employees during their lunch hours and after working hours. The recreation department marshalled its forces, held numer-

ous staff meetings to determine the best line to take to overcome misunderstanding of the program and prejudice against it. After a few more visits information secured from employees taking part in these activities indicated that a narrow understanding of recreation values was responsible for the resistance to the program. Industrial executives felt that it would injure production and reduce profits. Immediately, a program of "psychological warfare" was undertaken. Daily form letters and invitations from the recreation department began to appear in the mail boxes of the executives who were opposed. These letters were designed to take advantage of the worship of productive efficiency rather than to attempt to tear it down. Good sound business principles were extolled and praised, but along with that praise went items regarding industry's responsibility for employees' welfare and the increase in production which could be expected from well-planned employees' recreation activities.

One month of this intensive campaign served to weaken the resistance of the supervisory personnel. More and more employees, stimulated by those already won over, began to clamor for the right of every man to play. A few plant executives began to show some interest in the possibilities of recreation and requested suggestions for activities for their plants. At this point a group of supervisors of various recreation activities visited the plants. In spite of some sporadic sniping by secretaries-ever-loyal-to-the-boss, the delegation reached the commander-in-chief in most instances and the second-in-command in all others. Again the recreation delegation presented its arguments. On orders from recreation headquarters, however, they left without attempting to make any specific agreements.

The educational campaign was resumed until all but a few of the plants were asking for assistance from the recreation department. This was exactly what the recreation headquarters staff had been waiting for. Noon hour programs were organized wherein employees, and in many cases executives, visited the centers and participated in the various activities offered. In those cases where it was im-

practical for the employees to visit the center, recommendations were made for the provision of card games, checkers, horseshoes and other activities that readily lend themselves to the available space at the factories.

The campaign has been nearly perfect. A very few of the more stubborn executives are still holding out, but continued efforts are gradually wearing down that resistance. Use is also being made of those executives who were converted. They are participating in the campaign and painting attractive pictures of more contented, more efficient employees.

The ammunition which proved most effective were the following statements:

An employer owes it to his employees to make

provision for their welfare and recreation during the time they spend in the plant and not working.

An employee who can play and relax a few minutes during the working period is a more contented, more efficient employee.

Any investment to provide relaxation and recreation for employees will pay dividends in increased production.

All available facilities should be used—from plant facilities, however limited, to outside community facilities, especially municipal facilities.

It is good business to use that which you pay for. You are paying for, you have paid for, and you will continue to pay for the use of municipal facilities through taxation. Why not make use of them when you can?

An interesting side light of the campaign is the fact that approximately 50 industrial teams made use of municipal facilities last year and double the number are expected to this summer.

Wales Plays Again

By P. M. RUPERT
Los Angeles, California

AN ANCIENT and beautiful custom, which was shattered in the grind of war, has slipped into place again. For centuries the Eisteddfod* of Wales was one of the world's great festivals, bringing the colorful and entertaining bards together in a whirl of gaiety and song. But all such happy activities were forgotten when Hitler's bombers roared over the English Channel, and not until five years had passed were the merrymakings undertaken once more.

It was the coal mining community of Ponciau in the county of Denbigh that started the ball rolling in August 1945 when it entertained the National Eisteddfod of Wales. Then, in July 1946 the rebirth of the national festival of the Welch Youth Movement—Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Urdd Gobaith Cymru—occurred in Shakespeare's historic Corwen, Meirionydd, which is situated in North Wales on the beautiful river Dee. It was most appropriate that Corwen should be chosen for the three-day

celebration for it was here in 1929 that Yr Urdd held its first National Eisteddfod.

Music, of course, held the spotlight and ranged from folk songs to difficult compositions, both instrumental and orchestral. Several of the youth clubs (many of which were composed of children under ten years of age) excelled in the native art of *canu pennillion*—the traditional style of setting verse to an extempore counter-melody. In addition, there were various dramatic offerings, an arts and crafts exhibition, and original verse and prose presentations. Graceful dances, too, added their diverse charms.

Thus the entertainment followed the old, old pattern—to the gratification of the venerable Welshmen who were fearful their culture and language might die out or become weakened by alien influence. In fact, it was due to their efforts that there was a revival of the community clubs, which, more than anything else, perpetuate the Welsh heritage—as the oldsters very well knew. Later, the national festivals created enthusiasm, so a good start was made at reorganizing all the various groups. But if added impetus was needed, England's Heir Presumptive supplied it.

The Princess Joins

Following in the footsteps of the King and Queen who were initiated in 1926, Princess Elizabeth became a member of the select Gorsedd of Bards when she attended the National Eisteddfod of Wales on Mountain Ash, Glamorgan, last August.

*Eisteddfod: An annual congress of bards and literati of Wales, in its present form a 19th century revival.

Dressed in the formal white robes of the bards, she marched with the women members of the Bardic Circles from the local school to the Gorsedd Circle where an impressive ceremony was held. Thus was added one more royal bead to the always diversified, but ever scintillating, chain of the bards.

And "scintillating" exactly describes both the play and the players—today and in ages past. The very word "bard" evolved from just such festivals as these. First applied to Celtic poets, the name was later used to describe poets and minstrels of Gaul and Britain. These were nomad tribes but the acquisition of a title made them feel they were people of consequence, so they organized societies which conferred rights and privileges on the members.

Huge festivals were then held at intervals, which provided lively entertainment for the whole company. An interesting feature of these get-togethers concerned the divisions into which the different bards fell: some celebrated victories and sang hymns of praise; others chanted the laws of the land, and a third group gave poetic genealogies and family histories. But the outstanding events were the daily song contests which were umpired by the princes and nobles of the region. In these the bards outdid themselves!

But the gay assemblies were frowned on in some circles and the conventions gradually died out during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. They were later revived, however, and for many years were held regularly, particularly in Wales and Ireland. But the nomadic bards could no longer consider the Eisteddfod their personal field of entertainment!

Now whenever one of the celebrations was staged in a community, the spirit of rivalry and fun became so contagious that the artistic home folks captured what they could of it—to savor later on. Consequently, small local Eisteddfodau sprang up throughout the land. They featured the poetry and music of the master bards and also added pertinent features of their own.

Development

At first these clubs staged contests with groups no further away than the next village, but gradually their fame and activities spread until they eventually became identified with the great Eisteddfod itself.

In this same manner the individual clubs of today follow the path to national prominence. The first step is to excel in district competitions, then in county fetes. Subsequently the winners are given preliminary tests at the National Eisteddfod;

then the most outstanding individuals, teams and choirs engage in the final contests.

It has always been a high honor to win national recognition, and everyone works long and hard towards that end. And now that the Eisteddfod has once again taken its rightful place in the universe, there will be a display of talent and skill this summer that will undoubtedly surpass any ever displayed at a festival. This year peace will be celebrated in song and story, dance and drama. The Eisteddfod of Wales, one of the world's greatest festivals, will be greater than ever!

Books Received

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Creative Crafts in Wood, by Michael C. Dank. The Manual Arts Press, Peoria, Illinois. \$3.00.

More Ben Hunt Whittlings, by W. Ben Hunt. The Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. \$2.50.

You Can Draw Anything, by William F. Mullin. The John C. Winston Company, Philadelphia - Toronto. \$1.25.

GAMES

Banks' Blindfold Checker Masterpieces, by Newell W. Banks. David McKay Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. \$2.50.

Pool Checkers, by Theodore P. Hines. David McKay Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. \$2.00.

MISCELLANEOUS

Outdoor Book, The, by Wanda Taylor Linderman. Camp Fire Girls, Inc. \$60.

Play Therapy, by Virginia Mae Axline. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Massachusetts. \$3.50.

Racial Factor in Y.M.C.A.'s, The, prepared by Dr. J. Howell Atwood. Association Press, New York. \$2.25.

Sing of America, collected and arranged by Tom Scott. Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York. \$4.00.

SPORTS

Crawl Stroke Illustrated, The, by Capt. T. W. Sheffield. Beach and Pool, New York. \$2.00.

Official Golf Guide 1947, edited by Bill Richardson. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. \$5.00.

Sports and Games, by Harold Keith. Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York. \$2.75.

Official Basketball Guide, The, 1946-47. A. S. Barnes and Co., New York. \$5.00.

Official Basketball and Officials Rating Guide for Women and Girls, The, 1946-47. A. S. Barnes and Co., New York. \$3.50.

Official Ice Hockey Guide, The, 1947. A. S. Barnes and Co., New York. \$5.00.

Sailing Primer, The, by Rosemary and Steever B. Olden. Cornell Maritime Press, New York. \$2.50.

Star Atlas and Navigation Encyclopedia, The, by S. S. Rabl. Cornell Maritime Press, New York. \$5.00.

Exploring Our National Parks and Monuments, Devereaux Butcher. Oxford University Press, New York. \$1.75.

Amateur Handcraft, F. Clarke Hughes. The Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee 1, Wisconsin. \$2.50.

Lebert H. Weir



LEBERT H. WEIR's work with recreation departments throughout the country has done much to build the recreation movement. He has made many important studies in a number of cities throughout the country which were the beginnings of recreation departments and on which they still function. Through his work both here and abroad he has come to be recognized throughout the world as an authority on the recreational use of parks.

This recent letter from V. K. Brown to Howard Braucher, President of the National Recreation Association, about Lebert Weir's service is among the many expressions of appreciation received over the years.

"You probably have heard of a bill in Springfield proposing to abolish the independent Park District here and turn the parks over to the City Council, to be operated as a department of the city government. Our organization isn't campaigning in opposition, but we have suggested in various places that people give some serious thought to the question before going too far on the theoretical principle of consolidation of municipal functions.

"I am dropping you this line to let you know that L. H. Weir attended the session of the Recreation Commission's committee on such matters, and did a splendid job of reviewing the history of similar measures in other cities of the country. We feel that we owe him a big debt. He directed thinking on the part of this committee in those first few

minutes after the subject was opened up, and you know how vitally important it is that thinking start in the right direction, since afterward it is very likely to continue in the same course. His counsel brought sharply into view the two sides to the question, and insured a thoughtful balancing of considerations on the part of the Commission, at least, and of other citizens who will be influenced by the Commission. It was an awfully good day's work for Chicago and I thought you would be interested in knowing about it.

"No doubt Weir made a report, but the other fellow's point of view sometimes presents interesting and supplementary angles. Our General Attorney thought well enough of Weir's presentation to ask the secretary of the meeting to give him a transcription of every note she took, not alone the minutes of the meeting which condensed these notes. As I said before, all of us feel that he did a wonderful job for the city, and we think you are entitled to know that that's the way we feel about it."

The national recreation movement owes much to Lebert Weir for his fine service through the years.

Mrs. Fred R. Easterday

MRS. FRED R. EASTERDAY of Lincoln, Nebraska, represented the National Recreation Association at the Y.M.C.A.-Y.W.C.A. conference in Grinnell, Iowa, in June.

Mrs. Easterday has given long and generous service in recreation to Lincoln, the state and the entire recreation movement. She helped form the Lincoln Recreation Council in 1922 and was appointed to the official board which was created in 1925. She has served continuously since then. She was responsible more than any other one person for the organization of the Lincoln recreation program.

She was the state P.T.A. recreation chairman beginning in 1924 for 15 years and she has also served as local National Recreation Association sponsor and attended Recreation Congresses in Atlantic City and Pittsburgh. She promoted home play week throughout the state of Nebraska, has worked with the State Extension Department and has visited many cities of Nebraska to help develop recreation.

She has always served as a volunteer in the Lincoln program.



Ever wish you were Aladdin?

YOU remember him . . .

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Recreation for Convalescents

By ROBERT L. HORNEY
Superintendent of Recreation
Peoria, Illinois

HIGH ON THE EDGE of the East Bluff overlooking the city of Peoria and the Illinois River stands St. Francis Hospital. In the convalescent ward on the eighth floor of the hospital are a bunch of youngsters wishing and dreaming and waiting for those days to come which will mean bike rides, hikes, baseball and swimming again. Most of the patients are victims of last year's polio epidemic.

Enthusiasm is high among these youngsters now as a result of the recreation program provided by the Peoria Playground and Recreation Board.

A few months ago, the Board, realizing the need of relaxation and recreation for the long stay patients, began an expanding program of activities.

The weekly program is directed by the supervisor of arts and crafts of the Recreation Board and offers for the most part a variety of games and crafts. On Saturdays and Sundays Junior Red Cross representatives from all the high schools, under the supervision of the arts and crafts leader, arrive at the ward for morning and afternoon sessions of playing various party games with the children and assisting with the craft work. Many of the patients are of the same age as the Junior Red Cross workers and the opportunity to play and work with other young people their age keeps them in contact with their school class and acts as an important morale booster.

Activities

Crafts, such as weaving and paper work, are participated in by the children. One enterprising youth made profitable use of the craft program and sold approximately \$70 worth of chair sets and pot holders to visitors. Before Easter the children made attractive favors for the patients' trays.

Innumerable party games, distributed on a loan basis, are played between the patients and visitors

during visiting hours. New games are added to the portable unit from time to time.

In addition to the game and craft program, movies, typical of those shown at the community centers, are presented every Wednesday afternoon in the recreation room for the "up" patients by the Housing Unit Supervisor for the Recreation Board. Bed patients are allowed turns to attend the movie depending on available wheel chairs and stretchers.

On Wednesday evenings a repeat showing of the movie is given in the annex, mainly for adult patients. The evening attendance usually averages 60. The patients enjoy the movie program so much that they always need reassurance that each Wednesday will bring a new show.

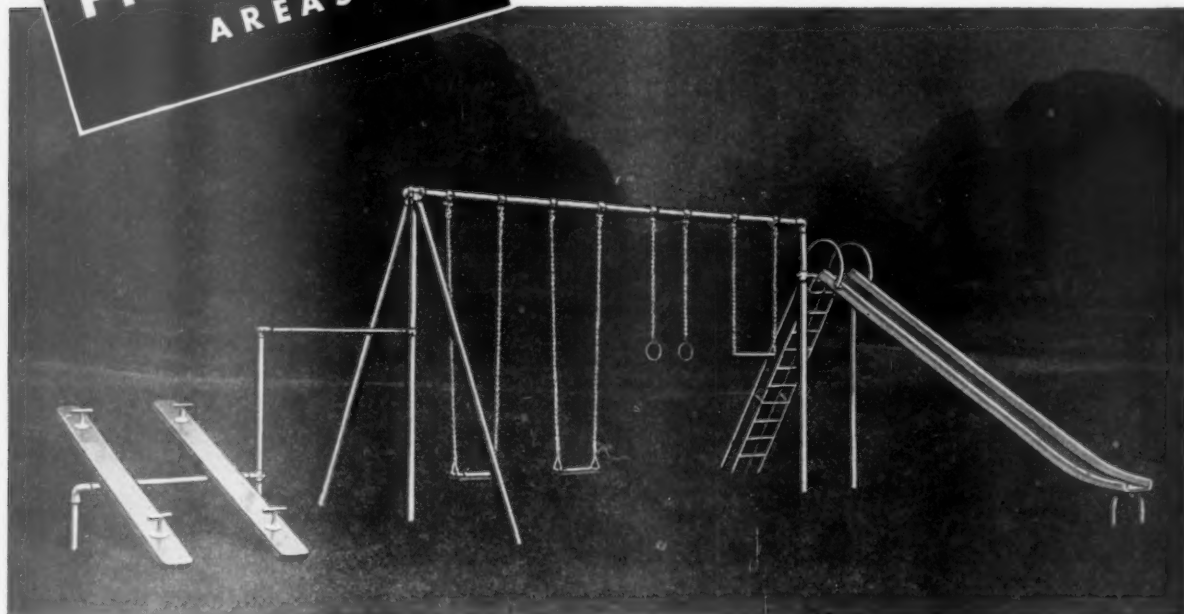
Every Thursday morning a private movie showing is held for an iron lung patient. The lung is tilted so that the patient may watch the film dis-

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played on the wall of his room, and he keeps a schedule of the weekly movies he will see.

Another phase of the program is the record library service, with phonograph and popular records that may be enjoyed in the patients' rooms. Popular bands playing the latest music constitute most of the music in the library.

Stamp collecting and other hobbies are encouraged and hobby-minded children are assisted by the leaders. Storytelling to the smaller children has also become part of the program.

The hospital chaplain is sincere in his praise of the recreation program, says that it is a real factor in keeping the convalescents happy and content and in bringing them back to normal living.

As one young patient put it: "It's sure swell that us kids can play games up here. It makes the day so much shorter."

Gardening As Recreation

THE PHENOMENAL growth of interest in gardening is one of the outstanding developments of the war. It is estimated that between 18 and 20 million victory gardens helped to assure adequate food supplies during the war period.

Irvington, New Jersey, is one of many communities where interest in gardening has not declined since the close of hostilities. Many residents have broadened their interests to include both flower and vegetable growing and permanent planting to improve the attractiveness of home grounds. From a patriotic "duty" wartime gardening has developed into a fascinating form of recreation for many residents who found that "working in the soil" had many satisfactions.

The fourth annual Victory Garden Fair sponsored by the Victory Garden Committee of the Irvington Department of Recreation was held last August in the Municipal Building. Both visitors and entries exceeded previous records.

Classes were provided for individuals, families and community gardens. As was true in previous years the class for "standard red tomatoes" (with 24 entries) was one of the centers of interest. In spite of close competition by more experienced gardeners, a 14-year-old boy won top honors.

A "horn of plenty" furnished the motif for one community garden display. Fourteen varieties of vegetables filled a table space 3 x 8 feet. This par-

ticular exhibit, judged for variety and excellence of vegetable specimens and general appearance, and winning the community garden competition, received warm acclaim by State Experiment Station judges. The donor of the award in this section was so enthused that the final "prize" turned out to be a chicken dinner for the twenty "residents" of this particular community garden. Fair judges, clubs and individuals donated other awards.

In addition to the many classes for vegetables, there were 20 classes for canning and four classes for flowers grown in vegetable gardens.

Opportunity was given during the Fair for answers to garden problems and discussion of the various varieties of vegetables suitable for climate and home garden conditions.

The Recreation Department organized the Fair and did the necessary clerical work—class cards, score sheets, entry forms. Committees from the Victory Garden Committee assumed responsibility for staging, room arrangements, scoring and judging.—Philip Le Boutillier, Director of Recreation, Irvington, New Jersey.



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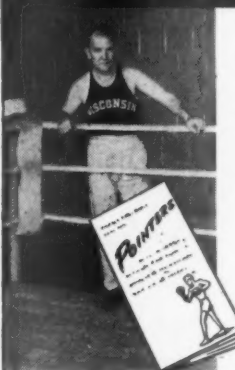
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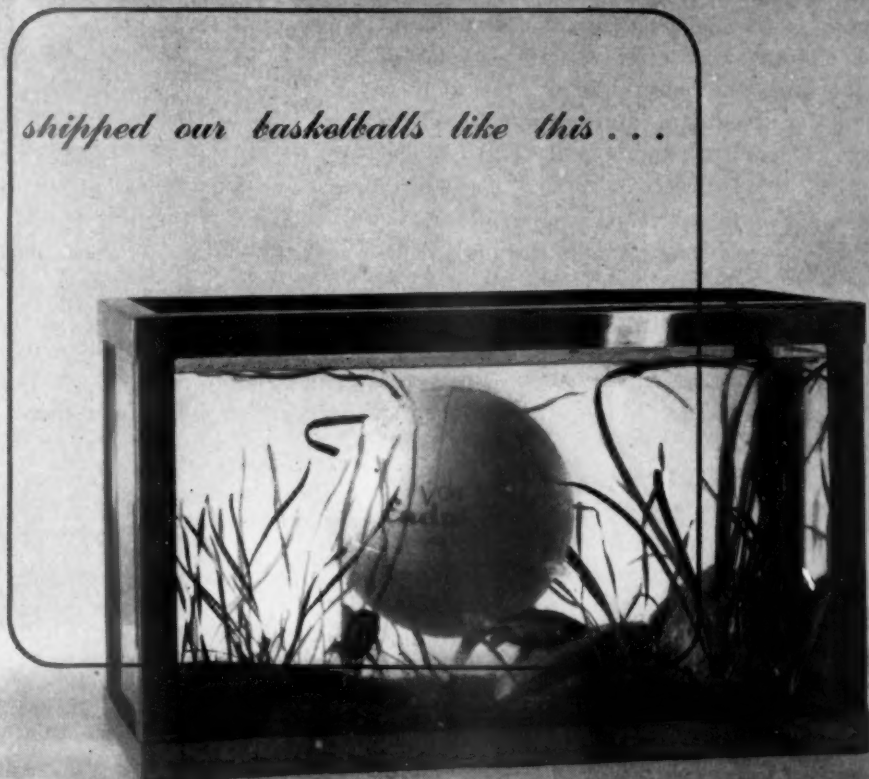
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WORLD AT PLAY

Never Too Old

AN elaborately furnished and lighted doll's house with a family of storks nesting on the roof, a carved rooster and a model of the Taj Mahal were among the blue ribbon winners at the first city-wide hobby show by persons more than 60 years old. Held at the Russell Sage Foundation in May, the exhibit was sponsored by the Welfare Council of New York City. Men and women from thirty-five institutions for the aged of all denominations, plus many individual hobbyists contributed to the display of 400 articles.

Youngsters Draw Up Plans

SIXTH graders through junior high school boys and girls were competitors in a playground layout contest in Tacoma, Washington. The object was to draw a plan of how the Jane Clark Playfield should be laid out when finally developed. Sponsored by the North End Recreation Association of Tacoma, the plans had to include a corner for preschool children, an apparatus area for older children, a hard surfaced area for games, a wading pool and many other recreation facilities.

Washington Playground

LAND purchased by the German Government in 1938 for an embassy in Washington was turned over to the District of Columbia Commissioner in May for use as a public playground. The site had been seized as enemy property by the office of the Alien Property Custodian. Permanent title will be vested in the National Capital Park and Planning Commission as soon as the necessary legislation can be enacted.

Products of the Sea

BROOCHES, earrings and other novelties are the products of the shellcraft class sponsored by the Recreation Department of Gainesville, Florida. The class meets twice a week and although it is comprised mostly of 10 and 11-year-old girls, the few boys who do participate work just as painstakingly as the feminine members. In Gainesville, no Mother's Day, birthday or Christmas is celebrated without its share of unusual gifts made in the shellcraft class.

Youth Festival

A WORLD Youth Festival with perhaps 40,000 youth representing 60 nations participating is being held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, from July 20 to August 17. The festival is featuring educational, cultural and sports activities.

Education Plus Recreation

INSTEAD of a formal schoolroom program, over 220 students selected from Future Farmers of America chapters in Florida were taken to a state park to study at the forestry training camp sponsored by the Florida Forest Service. Here intensive study was supplemented with sports and entertainment. This summer's plans called for two separate camps of a week each beginning July 13 with first year students attending the first week and second year students the second week.

Author, Author

SEATTLE Junior Programs, Inc., is holding its Fifth National Play Competition "to encourage the writing of plays of high standards for performance before junior audiences." A non-profit corporation, the organization has been sponsoring theater for junior citizens since 1939 and has also sponsored entertainment for spastic children. Prize-winning plays will be used in these programs and awards will be presented to the authors of the best originals and best adaptations from non-dramatic sources and from foreign plays. Manuscripts must be postmarked not later than midnight December 15, 1947 and the results of the competition will be announced March 15, 1948.

Fiesta

CORONA, California, held its second annual Spring Fiesta and Lemon Festival in April. A banquet, coronation dance, Fiesta Parade, Lemon Pie Contest, carnival and baseball game were just a few of the events scheduled for the three-day celebration. The fiesta, sponsored by the Corona Recreation Department, again made the La Casita Recreation Center the recipient of its efforts in the hope that an appreciable advance might be made in the immediate usability of this center.

Back to School—The Seventh Annual Eastern Cooperative Recreation School will be held on the campus of the State School of Agriculture, Randolph Center, Vermont, August 10 to 24 inclusive. The school is open to volunteer and professional community leaders who are interested in folk dancing and singing games, dramatics, social music and song leadership, games, group organization and the other courses that are offered.

The Gang Was All There—A program of music and drama was presented by the Pasadena, California, Board of City Directors in observance of the silver anniversary of its Department of Recreation in April. The executive council of the department of recreation, the civic auditorium and department of recreation staffs, and the Pasadena Park Department cooperated in making the event a success.

Convention in Canada—The National Convention of the Parks and Recreation Association of Canada will be held September 8-11.

Club on Trial—Boys of Kingston, New York, organized a non-sectarian Boys' Club for the benefit of those interested in art, craft, stamp and chess clubs and outdoor sports. The club has been set up as a test to prove the theory that it is possible for an organization such as this to be self-supporting and self-disciplined. Other clubs will be organized in other locations in Kingston if satisfactory results are obtained from this initial endeavor.

The Church's Workshop—The First Presbyterian Church of Wilson, North Carolina, held an arts-crafts workshop as a part of the observance of National Religious Education Week. More than 190 members of the Sunday School and Church participated in the program. The workshop stressed all types of social recreation and handicrafts such as cooking, sewing, woodwork, needlecraft, metalcraft and feltcraft, to name only a few.

On the Dance Floor—Dallas, Texas, reports nearly 5,000 persons attending a large, indoor square dance held on the four acre dance floor in the Agriculture Building at the Texas State Fair Park. The number actually taking part in the dances, about 2,500, came from Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Colorado and Louisiana. The dance was sponsored by the Dallas Park and Recreation Department.

Tom Mix Campaigns for Safety—Radio's Tom Mix, hero of millions of children, will teach his young listeners lessons in safety as a part of the National Safety Council's campaign to prevent back to school accidents during the month of September. For the second successive year, during the week of September 22-26, the sponsors of the Tom Mix series will substitute safety messages and dramatized stories in place of commercials. In addition to the program, there will be a special Tom Mix Child Safety Poster for schools, youth organizations, clubs, bulletin boards, churches and stores. Special "Home Safety Check Lists" will be distributed to school children throughout the nation and this material will be available to schools and teachers and youth organization leaders free of charge in any quantity desired, through the local Mutual Broadcasting System affiliated radio station.

St. Paul Takes Stock—Ernest W. Johnson has recently completed a self-appraisal of public recreation in St. Paul using as his measuring rod the Schedule of Appraisal of Community Recreation of the National Recreation Association. The study revealed that St. Paul is particularly deficient in the following: design, construction and maintenance, 50 percent; number and location of playgrounds, 50 percent; number of employed leaders, 58 percent; and current expenditures, 37 percent. St. Paul scored itself 41 out of a possible 42 points for training and qualifications of its employed leadership and 14 out of a possible 15 for its training program. Indoor facilities were rated 38 out of a possible 50 points, total outdoor acreage 20 out of 30, program 74 out of 100, participation 62½ and administration 87½.

Teen-Age Recreation Directors—Teen-agers were elected directors of Jefferson County, Kentucky, recreation. It was all part of the "Director for a Day" contest sponsored by the Jefferson County Playground and Recreation Board. Each teen-age club of the county nominated one member for the director's post and then started a concentrated membership drive to round up as many youngsters as possible so as to have the largest potential voting power. The two teen-agers polling the most votes met with the Fiscal Court, took care of regular appointments, had a luncheon engagement, and filled the routine duties required of the recreation director and his assistant. At the end of the day, they were asked to recommend "ways and means of making teen-agers in Jefferson County the happiest young people possible."

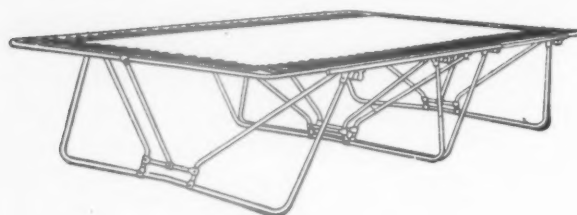


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- Children's Religion**, July 1947
Backyard Dramatics: Its Place in the Neighborhood,
Estelle Barnes Clapp
- Public Management**, June 1947
Some Effects of Population Changes on Municipal
Services, Victor Roterus
- Jewish Center Program Aids**, June 1947
Close-up of the Lounge
Our Grandparents, 1947
- The Research Quarterly**, May 1947
Hidden Possibilities for Research in Physical Edu-
cation and Recreation, Florence Stumpf and Fred-
erick W. Cozens
- Camping Magazine**, June 1947
Outdoor Education for San Diego Schools, Esther
Bristol
Fun Around the Campfire, II, A. H. Wyman
Control of Insects, Duncan E. Longworth
Develop Their Creative Ideas, II, Marion Trowbridge
- Beach and Pool**, May 1947
"Every Bather a Swimmer," Samuel L. Friedman
Basic Principles of Pool Design, Construction, Oper-
ation
Recent Developments and Ideas in Pool Sanitation
and Design, Chauncey A. Hyatt
- The Municipality (Wisconsin)**, June 1947
Parks and Recreation in Smaller Communities,
Jerome Dretzka
- Bulletin of Canadian Association for Health, Physical
Education and Recreation**
Industrial Recreation, Stanley Rough
- American Library Association Bulletin**, June 1947
Projected Books
- Scholastic Coach**, June 1947
Buyers' Guide and Directory 1947
- Journal of Health and Physical Education**, June 1947
The Veterans Administration Athletic Program,
B. E. Phillips
Aquatic Pageant Procedures, Lillian C. Burke
Our Australian Neighbors, G. M. Gloss
- The Rotarian**, June 1947
Seven Acres of Fun
- Parks and Recreation**, June 1947
Vancouver—Playground of the Northwest, P. B.
Stroyan
A New Neighborhood Park for Montreal, Henry
Teuscher
- The American City**, June 1947
Are More Links Necessary, Syl Pointkowski
Schenectady Plans the Town of Tomorrow, Victor
J. P. Blaine and James G. Shaw, Jr.
- The Nation's Schools**, July 1947
Tale of Two Cities—Cincinnati, St. Louis
Recreation for Adults, Too, Robert E. Link
- School Life**, July 1947
Recreation Programs Encouraged Through Federal
Inter-Agency Committee, Walter L. Scott

Camping Magazine, May 1947

The Role of REAL Camping, Barbara E. Joy
Fun Around the Campfire, A. H. Wyman
A Realistic Approach to Nature Study, Janel L. Nickelsburg
Camp Riflery, Charles J. Barclay
Develop Their Creative Ideas, Marion Trowbridge

PAMPHLETS

Wood Carving for Pleasure, Western Pine Association
and Herbert Rayner
Western Pine Association, Yeon Building, Portland, Oregon

Summer Day Camp—Suggestions on Standards, Program, Camp Facilities, Administration
Chicago Park District, Division of Recreation, Chicago, Illinois

Playground Manual
Recreation Department, Racine, Wisconsin

Playground Leader's Manual
Recreation Department, Akron, Ohio

Teen Canteens—Some Special Problems, Hazel Osborn
The Woman's Press, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

The World of Fun Series of Records for Folk Games
Methodist Publishing House, 810 Broadway, Nashville 2, Tennessee

New South, June 1947 (Special quarterly number)
Southern Regional Council Inc., 63 Auburn Avenue, N.E., Atlanta 3, Georgia

Master Plan of the Municipality of the City and County of Saint John, N. B., Canada
Town Planning Commission of City and County of Saint John, N. B., Canada

A Tennis Program for Elementary and Secondary Schools
K. J. Deimling, Sr., Chicago Tennis Association, 231 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Ill.

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Day Camp Standards for Girl Scouts
Girl Scouts National Organization, 155 East 44th Street, New York 17, N. Y. Price 10 cents each; 40 cents per set.

When You Grow Older, by George Lawton and Maxwell S. Stewart. Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 131
Public Affairs Committee, 22 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y. 20 cents

Sports, Physical Education and Recreation Film Guide
Business Screen Magazine and the Athletic Institute, 209 S. State Street, Chicago 4, Illinois. 50 cents

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THIS BROCHURE should be of great help to recreation departments conducting programs of water sports. It contains a wealth of material on water pageants, carnivals, stunts and games, of value not only in helping to build up attendance at swimming pools and beaches but in developing an interesting breadth of water activities.

The Y.M.C.A. and Public Recreation, Informal Education, and Leisure-Time Programs

By Helen E. Davis. Published under the auspices of the Bureau of Records, Studies and Trends, National Board of Y.M.C.A.'s. Association Press, New York, 1946.

DR. DAVIS, in the study which she made for the National Board of Y.M.C.A.'s, reviews the historic development of public recreation services, comparable developments in the Y.M.C.A. movement, and the history of the growth of community chests and councils. The study of the local relationships of the Y.M.C.A. and public recreation programs covers cities from 100,000 to 600,000 population, with personal visits to 10 representative communities. The communities selected were of various sizes in different sections of the country and with recreation programs of different degrees of adequacy and effectiveness.

Throughout the report Dr. Davis emphasizes that there is no inherent conflict whatever between public and private agencies in recreation work and that no evidence of any fundamental division was discovered in any personal observation or in any material examined in the study. Emphasis is placed on the fact that the real issue is how the public and private agencies, separately and together, can meet the total needs of the community. Dr. Davis states that the lines dividing recreation workers into what might be considered separate camps follow the degree of professional training and viewpoint rather than any pattern of public vs. private agencies.

The study was carefully reviewed by a Review Committee of the Y.M.C.A. and Chapter X of this report is devoted to the Review Committee's statement. The Review Committee comments on the factual material covered, Dr. Davis' analysis of it, and presents 11 principles of relationship between the Y.M.C.A. and public recreation agencies.

This study should prove to be very helpful to leaders in the public recreation movement as well as in the Y.M.C.A. as much of the material is applicable to other comparable local relationships as well as to the Y.M.C.A.

Dance Rhythm Music

By Sally Baker Hewitt. Publisher: Miss Hewitt, 332 Edward Avenue, Jackson, Michigan. \$1.00.

THIS IS AN ATTRACTIVE collection of 36 pieces of dance rhythm music by Sally Baker Hewitt, accompanist for modern dance classes at the Jackson High School and Junior College, Jackson, Michigan. Included are Rhythmic

Waltz, Hop, High Skip, Slide, Response to Syncopation, Swing with Pull, Three Beat Swing, Four Beat Swing, Walk, and other frequently used steps and figures.

The Party Table

By Margaret Powers. The Manual Arts Press, Peoria, Illinois. \$3.00.

PARTY DECORATING can be fun once you've learned to "make a party of making the makings." *The Party Table* is your shortcut to decorating magic. It offers new ideas for table coverings, centerpieces, favors and place cards, seasonal motifs and other festive details. The Jack Horner pie, the beruffled nut cup and the candy corsage are among the old favorites included. Instructions in this craft work are concrete and adaptable to your own ideas and distinctive taste. Illustrated how-it-looks drawings, paragraph headings and a detailed index provide easily accessible sources to party suggestions.

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MUSIC of wind in the forest, soft sward of the meadow,
Snow-covered hills and quiet valleys,
Sea-gulls in flight, white heron in the marshes,
Sunlight through yellow leaves, mystic beauty of flowers,
Warm sun and pure air and vigor of growing bodies,
Love of parents and family joys and sorrows,
Carefree play and simple tasks of daily life,
Treasures hidden in books, ecstasy of expanding thoughts,
Thrill of achievement and strength from undaunted failure,
Faith in the Power guiding the universe,
All were created
For *every* child.

Emma Octavia Lundberg
"Unto the Least of These"
D. Appleton-Century